Saturday Special / A2-1

Ogie Alcasid returns to musical theater with Cayabyab's 'Caysasay'

Metro / A22

4 nabbed for robbery-murder of Fil-Chinese couple in QC

News / A2

Ombudsman suspends millionaire DPWH director in NCR

Super / G3

Super! party for Manila Fashion Festival 2005 on May 25 at NBC Tent

Super / G2

Boy George in Manila: Heat is enemy of drag

GMA: Fire Winston? Who can argue with P35B?

MALAKI ANG PAKI-NABANG!

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

HE'S NOT perfect, but who can argue with profit?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is keeping Winston Garcia, president and general manager of

GMA/ A6

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'Conflict resolution expert' is next US envoy to RP

By John Nery
Inquirer TV

WASHINGTON, DC—The next American ambassador to the Philippines is a "conflict resolution expert" who knows both the nuances of Arabic and the intricacies of the Vatican.

Cameron Hume, until very recently the In-

CONFLICT/ A21

Mayors, cops on the take

Vivian starts journey back to family in Australia

OLONGAPO CITY—Wearing a pink dress and a shy smile, wheelchair-bound Vivian Alvarez left her hospice home of four years yesterday to begin the journey back to her family in Australia after a deportation bungle that has embarrassed Canberra.

The 42-year-old mother of two was picked up by an Australian Embassy official from a convent here amid uproar back home over Canberra's immigration policy. Later yesterday the embassy said she was reunited with three of her siblings, who were flown by the embassy from Cebu.

The reunion took place yesterday afternoon, with only a few embassy staffers present, in an undisclosed hospital in Metro Manila.

Philippine-born Alvarez would undergo a medical checkup, Consul General Frank Evatt said.

Alvarez has lived nearly forgotten in the care of nuns of Mother Teresa's Missionar-

VIVIAN/ A6

AFP

VIP TREATMENT. Vivian Alvarez, separated from her family the past four years, is fetched Friday by Australian Consul General Frank Evatt from a hospice in Olongapo and gets help to buckle up for the trip to Manila for a medical checkup and a reunion with her family.

'Jueteng' all over Isabela, says gov

By Christian V. Esguerra

"JUETENG" thrives in all 36 towns of Isabela and mayors refuse to help wipe it out because they benefit from its operation, provincial Gov. Grace Padaca alleged yesterday.

Padaca said the local police could not crack down on jueteng because up to 80 percent of their operational funds came from the mayors, and urged the regional police from outside Isabela to carry out the raids on the jueteng dens.

Padaca spoke of the extent of the gambling network in her province during a press conference while seated beside Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes and Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Lomibao said it had "not been verified" that local police were benefiting from alleged jueteng money received by mayors and that the supposed financial assistance for the local police was "between policemen and mayors."

"But per se, that is an illegal disbursement so we will not condone that kind of funds being given to them," Lomibao said.

He conceded that police, indeed, had an inadequate budget.

Padaca did not say how much mayors were allegedly receiving from jueteng operators.

Described as a P13-billion industry, jueteng has supposedly

MAYORS/ A20

Reyes: Why too much attention to media slays?

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau
Leila B. Salaverria
in Manila

TACLOBAN CITY—Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes is not too happy that the wave of media murders has been getting more attention than the killing of policemen or soldiers.

Speaking on Thursday at the meeting here of the Eastern Visayas Regional Development and Peace and Order Councils, Reyes said the Department of Interior and Local Governments was viewing the killing of journalists with "seriousness" in light of President Macapagal-Arroyo's "stern order."

But he said the media murders should not be viewed as an assault on press freedom because, he claimed, the majority of the killings were not related to the exercise of the profession.

Reyes also said that protecting journalists would take more than money, and that it would take more than the DILG to secure them.

"What is needed is the coordinated effort of the whole bureaucracy because not only journalists but [also other] people are getting killed," he said.

Reyes enjoined those in the journalism profession to "police their own ranks."

"Who is a journalist?" he said. "I consider journalism a profession that should pass certain criteria of competence, expertise or ethics. And a roster of real journalists should be maintained because not all attacks on journalists are assaults on press freedom."

To show that the DILG and the Philippine National Police were taking the matter seriously, Reyes said PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao had been visiting and relieving police officials in areas where journalists had been killed.

"Because the killing of journalists has become not only a national issue but [also an] international issue," he said.

But he lamented that "if soldiers are killed, [they] become statistics," and "if policemen are killed, only [I] and Lomibao visit the funeral wake."

The President ordered Reyes on May 11 to solve the media

REYES/ A21

PHILIPPINES
PUERTO RICO
PERU

MISS UNIVERSE HOPEFULS

Miss Philippines (left) Gionna Cabrera, Miss Puerto Rico Cynthia Olavarria and Miss Peru Debora Sukca are on their way to a video taping, one of the many-splendored activities candidates for Miss Universe 2005 go through for the pageant set on May 31 in Bangkok, Thailand.

AP

Approval of engine replacement deal was conditional, says Neri

THE CONTROVERSIAL contract for the engine replacement program of the Natural Resources Development Corp. that is at the center of the conflict between Environment Secretary Michael Defensor and retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus has not even been approved yet, said Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

Neri, who is a member of the NRDC board, was not at the March 14 meeting of the NRDC board during which the memorandum of agreement for the project was reportedly approved. Corpus chaired the board at the time.

But Neri said that he was told by two board members who were present that the approval had been "conditional" on four items being fulfilled.

"What they recall is that there were conditions set, but there was no approval," Neri said in a telephone interview.

The contract concerned a proposal from the A. T. Intergrouppe Inc. and its partner Italian firm Iveco to finance and supply the engines for the government's engine replacement program.

The NRDC, the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is the agency in charge of implementing the program. The project is aimed at helping jeepney and bus operators replace their aging diesel fleet to comply with the Clean Air Act.

APPROVAL/ A8

₱250M from Yuchengco fails to mollify Pacific plan holders

By Alcuin Papa
and Elizabeth Sanchez

ANGRY plan holders of the Pacific Plan Inc. yesterday challenged the integrity of the Yuchengco family, the firm's owners, as they trooped to the Makati Regional Trial Court to oppose the company's petition for rehabilitation which they said was "not viable" and "inequitable."

In its petition, the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition) said the PPI's liquidity problem, which the company used as the grounds for its rehabilitation petition, was "fraudulently self-engineered and artificially contrived" and the result of the company's own negligence.

"Petitioner PPI has doomed itself to death and now pretends to supplicate this court to resuscitate it. But it is not resuscitation that PPI truly wants. What it seeks when it filed this petition is this court's imprimatur on its proposed rehabilitation plan, which will legitimize the evasion of its contractual obligations to its 34,000 plan holders,'" the PEP coalition said.

While this was happening, the 82-year-old Yuchengco family patriarch, Alfonso Yuchengco, was handing a check for P250 million to PPI president Ernesto Garcia at the Peninsula Hotel to help out the beleaguered pre-need firm.

The money is a loan that can be converted into equity in the future, which could give Yuchengco between 30 percent and 40 percent of a rehabilitated PPI if the Makati court approves the company's petition for rehabilitation.

"I am broke now. I could not sleep last night. I cried the whole night," the tycoon said in jest.

P250M/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread over Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/14/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Millionaire DPWH exec sacked

By Nelson F. Flores

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo yesterday ordered the preventive suspension for six months without pay of Josefino Rigor, the National Capital Region director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, for grave misconduct, dishonesty and falsification of public documents.

Lawyer Ernesto Nocos, Ombudsman spokesperson, said there is sufficient basis to place Rigor under suspension.

He said the DPWH official has acquired unexplained wealth and failed to declare a number properties, including several business interests, in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net worth from 1999 to 2002.

Among these properties include 22 parcels of land in Victoria, San Roque and San Rafael, Tarlac; one parcel of land in Tarlac City; a two-storey commercial/residential building along G. Tuazon, Sampaloc, Manila; a Toyota Rav 4 sports utility vehicle under his wife's name and a Dodge Ram Road Trek.

Nocos noted that the funding for these properties remains questionable considering that based on available records, the only source of Rigor's income was his salary as an employee of the DPWH from 1972 up to 2002, which is estimated at P3,235,523.34 while his aggregate assets are valued at P60,773,459.49.

"Hence, the approximate value of his unexplained wealth is P53,537,936.15," Nocos said.

Nocos also revealed that Rigor's business interests include shares in Jetri Construction Corp. worth P600,000 with his wife as one of the incorporators and treasurer, stocks in Disneyland Bus Line Inc. worth P1,125,000 in his name and P750,000 in his wife's name, and stocks in Kontrata Construction and Development Corp. worth P250,000 and that of his wife worth P875,000.

Based on official records, Rigor and his family took 64 foreign trips from 1993 to 2005, Nocos said.

The undeclared properties of Rigor and the numerous foreign travels his family had cannot be substantiated by the income he received from his principal occupation as a public officer," Nocos stressed.

'70s nutri-bun back as nutri-pan

By Cynthia D. Balana

TO ADDRESS the growing malnutrition in the country, the government will soon launch a P300 million supplemental feeding program that will bring back the popular Nutri-bun and KLIM milk snacks of the '70s to public elementary schools nationwide.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said the massive food supplemental program was approved by the DSWD, the Department of Education and the country's economic managers.

She said that Nutri-bun will now be called "nutri-pan," a bread that comes in the form of a big pandesal fortified with vitamin A.

As an experiment, nutri-pans are now being distributed in public elementary schools in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental, Soliman said.

Soliman said she found nutri-pan tastier and sweeter than nutri-bun.

The government has also launched a milk feeding program called "Wealthier Farmers, Healthier Children."

Soliman said this was already being done in South Cotabato on a limited scale.

She said the local government there and the Department of Agriculture had put up a community-based dairy farm with each barangay being given a cow to milk. The milk is then bought by the local government for distribution to local daycare centers to feed the children.

The DSWD is now coordinating with the Bureau of Food and Drug regarding the nutri-pan and milk feeding program.

Soliman said the supplemental food program would be expanded to include big food chains and corporations such as Jollibee, McDonald's, Unilever and Mead-Johnson.

"There's already a commitment, and there's already funding for this. We just have to make it cost efficient," she said.

TASK FORCE STINGRAY

A member of the elite Philippine Marines antiterrorist task force stingray hits the sand during an exercise on the white shoreline of Boracay. The group is assigned to secure the island from criminals and terrorists.

VAL HANDUMON

Prove 'doormat' tag, GMA tells US envoy

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday demanded that the US Embassy back up its allegations that Cotabato City was a "gateway" for foreign militants seeking terrorist training.

Outgoing US ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone on Wednesday told foreign correspondents that Cotabato City has become a "doormat" for international terrorists, prompting the shelving of a US-funded road project in the province.

Ms Arroyo, however, won't let Ricciardone's claim pass. "The most important thing is to get to the bottom (of it)," she said.

The President yesterday conceded that Ricciardone, who ended his tour of duty in the country yesterday, had shared this information to her and that her government was in the process of validating it.

"The prudent thing I think is to get more details—not for me but for my intelligence people—from the US intelligence people to indeed see if there's some kernel of truth to this allegation," Ms Arroyo told a news conference.

But military officials have promptly denied that foreign terrorists have entered Cotabato, pointing out that all entry points along the Cotabato shoreline have been secured by Army and paramilitary troops.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) suspended grant funding for a planned road project in Cotabato amid fears the project might inadvertently help Islamic militants achieve their goals.

"We don't want to build a road that's going to make it easier for bombers to sneak in and out in the dead of night and elude the armed forces of the Philippines," Ricciardone said.

Ricciardone said the road which provides an alternate link between Cotabato city and Maguindanao province was "just one project among many that we have suspended for a time." "The problem is, it's still a doorway, or can be, for people who are training to plant bombs on railways and buses and on ships," he said.

The US decision touched off a spate of anti-American street protests earlier this month in Cotabato, a Muslim-Christian entrepot of about 164,000 people.

Supporters of Cotabato City mayor Muslimin Sema burned US flags and the city council passed a resolution declaring Ricciardone "persona non grata."

"It's unjust and unfair. We are not the entry point of foreign terrorists," Sema stressed, adding the US envoy's statement was damaging to the future of Filipinos and called on the President to do something about it.

Ms Arroyo said "that (the residents' anger) is understandable, so the most important thing is to get to the bottom of the allegation." "If indeed that road is crucial, well, we'll just have to look for the money from our own funds," she said.

But Ricciardone stressed that the promised US funding had not been canceled. "I hope in fact that we can resume it because we do want to resolve some questions on the directions of Cotabato."

A day after making his "doormat" claim, Ricciardone yesterday extended a "hand of friendship" to Sema. *AFP, Christine O. Avendaño and Joeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

One of 3 Indon terror suspects on US 'freeze' list hiding in RP

WASHINGTON—The government ordered US banks to block any financial assets in the United States of three Indonesians— one of them believed hiding in the Philippines—who are alleged to be leaders of the Southeast Asian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The Treasury Department on Thursday added Zulkarnaen, Abu Rusdan and Joko Pitono to its blocking list, which names terrorist suspects and seeks to freeze their assets.

Regional security officials say Pitono, also known as Dulmatin, is a top bomb maker for the group and is a suspect in several Jemaah Islamiyah bomb plots, including Bali.

Pitono is believed to be hiding in the Philippines.

Zulkarnaen, whose real name is Aris Sumarsono, is believed by security officials to have stepped in as Jemaah Islamiyah's operations chief in 2003 after the group's main contact with al-Qaida, an Indonesian called Hambali, was arrested.

Abu Rusdan was imprisoned last year for helping hide one of the suspects in the 2002 nightclub blasts on Indonesia's Bali island that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. *AP*

SC asked to rule nat'l ID illegal

By Leila B. Salaverria

RAISING a "Big Brother" scenario, lawmakers and civic group leaders yesterday asked the Supreme Court to nullify and issue a temporary restraining order against Executive Order 420, which seeks to implement a unified identification system for all government employees.

The group wants to stop EO 420 on the grounds that it is unconstitutional and violates the right to privacy by allowing the government access to personal information without the person's consent.

"It is part of a superstructure for getting juicy information in violation of the people's civil and political rights—whether activists, opposition figures or just simple private citizens. For those who view protest as an exercise of one's constitutional right, it is a means of building dossiers and fish for evidence against them," their 43-page petition read.

Bayan Muna Reps. Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño led the filing of the petition for certiorari and prohibition with an application for a TRO before the SC yesterday. The other petitioners included Reps. Francis Escudero, Eduardo Zialcita, Lorenzo Tanada III and Crispin Beltran.

Named respondents were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, National Economic and Development Authority director Romulo Neri and the administrator of the National Statistics Office.

Under EO 420, the government will issue an ID card for employees of government agencies and government corporations.

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RP professionals flocking to Canada

CANADIAN trainor Cathy Weston teaches Filipino immigrants to accustom themselves to the culture and weather of their adopted country during an orientation seminar at the Canadian Immigration room in Makati City. AFP PHOTO

DESPITE its cold climate, Canada is fast becoming the country of choice for many middle-class professional Filipinos who are leaving the tropical Philippines in droves to seek a better future for themselves and their families overseas.

Armed with a college degree and a good career history with a multinational electronics firm in Manila, Ferdie del Rosario plans to quit his job and emigrate to Canada.

Taking a day off from his job as a supervisor at Amkor Technology, he has brought one of his small children along to a seminar on becoming a Canadian citizen.

Del Rosario points to his daughter, playing on the aisle during a seminar break, and says he is doing it "for the future of my kids." He says his life here is comfortable but even he is worried about what lies ahead for the Philippines.

"You can see the situation: there are so many graduates but not enough jobs. In my job, there are college graduates who are just machine operators." Unemployment is running at about 11 percent nationally and rising, and with 700,000 new college graduates every year, the economy cannot create enough skilled jobs to accommodate them.

A million Filipinos are expected to leave the country this year, most of them in search of temporary, higher-paying jobs. But a growing number are pulling up stakes for good in a country where 51 percent live on two dollars a day or less.

For the optimistic crowds who attend the seminars organized by the Canadian government's Citizenship and Immigration ministry, there is little sign of wistfulness about leaving the land of their birth.

Offered free of charge twice a week to those approved immigrants to Canada, the seminars prepare Filipinos about the realities of their new country: the cold weather, the culture shock and having as much as 30 percent of their salaries go to taxes—a sharp adjustment for Filipinos who are used to evading taxes back home.

Canadians based in the Philippines say there is much to love in the Southeast Asian country: a comfortable, tropical climate, beautiful beaches, fresh fruits and fresh seafood.

But at one recent seminar, the would-be migrants, mostly professionals or skilled workers, said they would be glad to leave "the pollution" and "bribery." The only things the Filipinos said they would miss are the friends and family they will be leaving behind—and the low-cost househelp that every middle-class Filipino family can afford.

Filipinos are the third largest group of immigrants to Canada, just behind the Chinese and Indians. Approximately 12,000 immigrated last year alone, Canadian officials said.

The number excludes 2,000 Filipino caregivers allowed into Canada each year under a special program which lets them become permanent residents after about three years.

In the past, the United States was the migrants' first choice. But stricter US immigration regulations, Canada's more open policy to skilled workers, state-subsidized schools and health care are attracting more Filipinos.

The Canadian government advises migrants to bring enough money to survive for six months because it may take them that long to settle and find a job.

The immigrants are not intimidated by advice that their educational and professional qualifications may not count as much in Canada—or tales from earlier migrants about how they had to start working at the bottom of the ladder.

Teachers in government schools get paid about $200 a month here in the Philippines, about half what they can earn as domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Government doctors earn around $400 to $500 a month in the Philippines but in north America they can earn many times that each month as nurses.

Many are willing to endure this because they have lost hope in a home country which suffers from sluggish economic growth, political squabbling and corruption.

Gloomy sentiments about the Philippines have been growing for years. A July 2002 survey by polling outfit Pulse Asia Inc. found that 24 percent of adults said they would "migrate to another country and live there" if given a chance.

Options of preventing the country's best and brightest from leaving are few. "Well, what can we do about it? Tell me, can I prevent you from leaving? I don't think so," says Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas. *AFP*

Erring Boracay firms get reprieve

By Blanche Rivera

THE FUN continues, at least, until June.

Establishments in Boracay were given a reprieve yesterday after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources postponed the closure of erring firms for another month.

Zoilo Andin, DENR special action officer for Boracay, said local officials appealed to the DENR to wait until the end of the peak season before cracking down on the firms.

He said the DENR was also considering the capability of the Philippine Tourism Authority to repair and construct the proper waste disposal system on the island.

The repair work on the sewerage and other disposal facilities would require the temporary closure of some establishments and cause a foul smell that would surely turn off tourists.

"Our objective is to service Boracay, that's why we're trying to fix this problem," Andin said.

Boracay, a world-renowned island resort, is a top destination of local and foreign tourists during summer.

The Department of Tourism recorded tourist arrivals last year at 428,755, 26.31 percent higher than the 339,434. Of this, 291,279 were domestic tourists and 121,023 were foreigners.

The DENR, however, found that of some 500 establishments on the island, 161 lacked proper waste disposal facilities and sewerage.

"We don't plan to extend this again. If by June they still do not comply, we will really start closing down these establishments," Andin said.

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DAY 1 : May 25, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Nick C. Fontanilla
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research

Keynote Address
Mr. Robert de Ocampo
President, Asian Institute of Marketing

Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy
Speaker: Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies
President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme
Speaker: Mr. Mark Yambot
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain
Speaker: Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito
President, United Laboratories Group

Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums
Speaker: Mr. Luke Tan
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events
Speaker: Mr. Christophe Bezu
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Karen De Asis
Marketing Consultant
Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School

Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru
Speaker: Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya
President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

Session Seven:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor
Speaker: Mr. Josellto B. Ortega
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

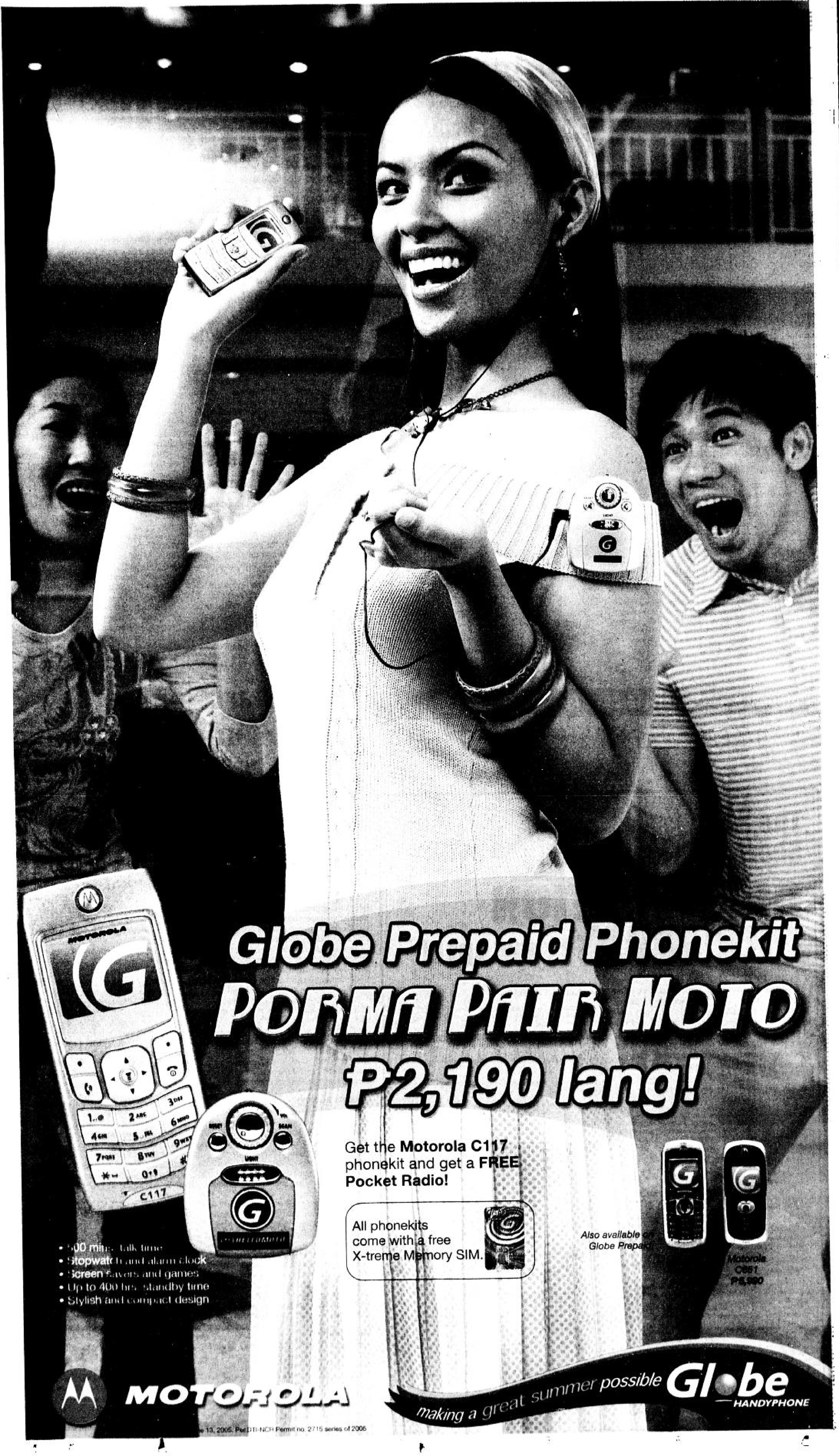
Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth
Speaker: Mr. Gavin Coombes
Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!
Speaker: Ms. Grace F. Magno
Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing
Speaker: Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence
Speaker: Mr. Nicanor C. Gabunada
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence
Speaker: Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)



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GMA: Fire Winston? Who can argue with P35B?

From page A1

the Government Service Insurance System, but his sister, who serves as his executive assistant, is on the way out.

"I do have to recognize that [Garcia] has made GSIS very profitable, but he has to be corrected on his practices. For instance, he has just let go of his sister...," Ms Arroyo said at a briefing in Malacañang yesterday.

Since his appointment four years ago, Garcia has been the subject of criticism for alleged inefficient management and supposed excessive salaries and perks for himself and his officials, including his sister, Farla Carolyn G. Empemano.

But he has proved to have strong staying power, especially with the steady support of the President.

Garcia's influential clan in Cebu is said to be responsible for giving Ms Arroyo the largest winning margin among all regions in last year's election, which turned out to be the deciding vote in the presidential race.

P99,000 salary

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico has questioned Garcia's appointment of Empemano as his special assistant, with a P99,000 monthly salary and P31,000 in allowances.

In a press statement issued by Malacañang, Empemano said she submitted a resignation letter to Garcia on May 5.

Her "Dear Winston" letter said she was resigning "because of the incessant controversies that had unduly affected our family."

Garcia has "approved" her resignation—to take effect at the close of office hours on May 31—"with deep regrets."

In the statement, Empemano said she would pursue other career opportunities and spend more time with her own family.

She said she thought her years as a certified public accountant in the government would be of value to Garcia and the GSIS. But her employment in his staff had turned out to be a source of controversy, she said.

Empemano thanked the President for "standing her ground" and for "her continued support [of] and confidence [in Garcia] despite pressures from vested interest groups."

P35-B profit

Asked if she considered Garcia expendable to the GSIS, Ms Arroyo said: "Let's put it this way: If someone is giving you a P35-billion profit, I don't know if others would be able to do that. What he has delivered is fact, what others may deliver is speculation."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin recently took Garcia to task for not heeding the President's directive to cut the salaries and perks of ranking GSIS officials.

She said she found it "unusual" for Garcia to cut his monthly pay, only to deposit the excess amount in another account under his name.

"This is the first time I heard of this operation, and I must confess that I find this unusual. By getting the money from the GSIS and putting it in a private account, it means that the money is out of the company's hands," Boncodin said in a radio interview.

Suplico has disputed Garcia's claim of a pay cut.

The lawmaker said Garcia received P466,308.83 per month last year, which reflected a reduction of only P159,000 a month in the last two years.

He said Garcia's pay cut was deposited in the GSIS special savings fund.

Flip-flopping

Boncodin said Garcia might have shown his desire to comply with Memorandum Order No. 20, which limits the salaries and perks of executives of government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions to twice the P40,000 monthly salary of a Cabinet member.

"But if he placed the money in an account under his name, then that money is still his," Boncodin said. "If [the money] is in your name, it is yours, because you are the only one who can decide what to do with it. If you are sincere in reducing your salary, then just simply cut. If you don't, you're just flip-flopping."

On the issue of the strict implementation of MO 20, the President appears to be influenced by the fear that talented professionals in GOCCs and GFIs would return to the private sector for higher compensation.

"I have to look at the market price or opportunity cost of every executive," she said. "Will I lose him to the private sector and will he be a great loss? Can the job be handled by any intelligent and competent person?"

A number of executives of GOCCs and GFIs have questioned the legality of MO 20 because the amount of their salaries and perks is specified in their respective charters.

Vivian starts journey back to family in Australia

From page A1

ies of Charity since 2001.

She was deported by mistake as she recovered from serious injuries sustained in a car accident, even though she had two children in Australia and had lived there for up to 18 years.

Alvarez's family in Australia said they had searched for her for four years unaware she had been deported and until last week believed she was dead.

Prime Minister John Howard has offered a qualified apology to Alvarez in Parliament. Earlier this month the Australian government admitted that immigration officials had wrongfully detained 33 people, usually briefly, between July 2003 and February 2004.

Alvarez said she remembered little of the incident leading to her deportation, only that she knew she was in a car accident and had told immigration authorities who picked her up that she was an Australian citizen.

"I had an accident, I told them I was an Australian citizen and that my passport was not with me," she told reporters here.

She said she was to have picked up one of her sons at a day care center that day, but was instead detained by immigration authorities.

Reports from Australia said her first son had been in foster care for the past four years, while another son was to set to finish high school.

Accepts apology

Alvarez said she wanted to stay in Australia, but was told by authorities nobody would care for her there. She was then flown to Manila, and taken to the hospice by "an Australian woman. I don't remember her name."

"It was a mistake," Alvarez said, but answered "yes" when asked if she accepted the conservative government's apology. "To err is human," she added.

Reports said the Australian government had known about her case for the past two years, but had done nothing to locate her.

The woman said no embassy official contacted her while she was in the hospice. She had wanted to locate her family in Australia, but she lacked the means to do so, did not have a telephone or money to pay for long distance calls.

Asked if she wanted to fly back to Australia and be reunited with her family, she said: "That would be nice. I am too sore to think," she added, when asked about her future plans.

Cause célèbre

She said she did not hold any grudges against the Australian government and did not realize until a few days ago that she had become a cause célèbre in Sydney and that she was wrongfully deported.

Evatt said Alvarez would be well taken care of in Manila and given enough time to recover.

"We are going to be taking Vivian down to Manila today and we're going to do some medical examination," Evatt told reporters here.

"(We will) make sure she is okay and give her an opportunity to meet with some of her family and to try to do some planning for her future."

"What we need to do is give Vivian a little bit of space and with dignity leave this place. A lot has happened to her in quite a short period of time and we are just trying to do the best thing by her," Evatt said.

The embassy, in a press statement yesterday, said it was "very pleased" that Alvarez has been found and reconciled with her family.

Aussie envoy's statement

"She is being assisted by members of the embassy including our consul general. Her family has been contacted and advised of her whereabouts. We are doing all we can to provide her with assistance," Australian Ambassador Tony Hely said in a statement.

Three of Alvarez's siblings arrived in Manila from Cebu, their flight tickets and accommodations paid for by the embassy.

"The family of Alvarez requests that under current circumstances, the public and media respect their need for privacy to enable them to reunite with their sister in peace and for her to recover from the growing media attention given to to her," the embassy said.

Alvarez has indicated her desire to return to Australia soon. The embassy said the Australian government "will continue to provide support for [her] whether she chooses to remain in the Philippines or return to Australia."

Hely explained that Canberra's "most immediate priority" was Alvarez's health and welfare. He added that she would receive full medical assessment here to determine what health services and other care she may further require and would be given enough time to recover.

Surprised by priest's comments

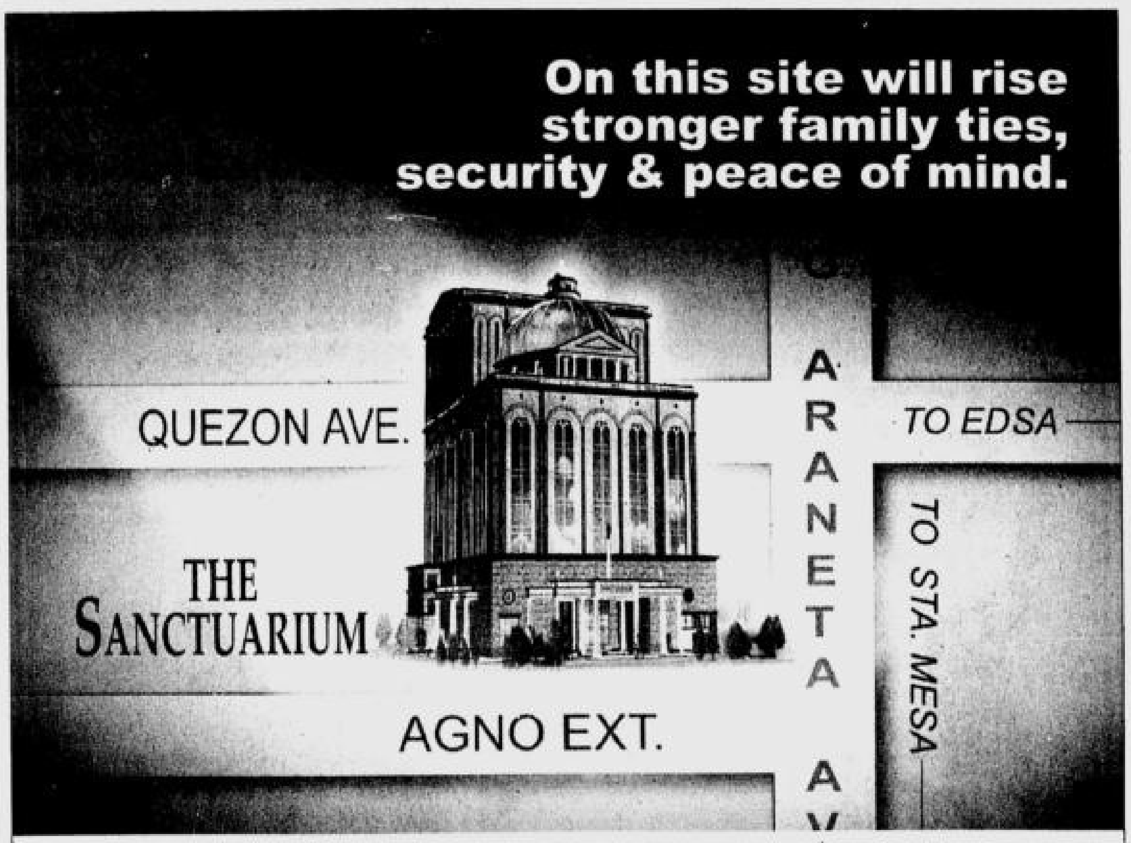
"Long-term decisions about ongoing care for her will be made in consultation with members of her family based on medical and other expert advice," the statement added.

The embassy also said it was surprised by comments of Australian priest Michael Duffin who said Australian authorities knew all along where she was since they were the ones who brought her to the convent.

"The information by Father Duffin is not an accurate account of the incident. From the time of [her] arrival in the Philippines in 2002, Australian officials have had neither knowledge of her involvements nor her whereabouts," it explained.

The embassy added: "[She] was met by Overseas Workers Welfare Administration officials here in the Philippines who were responsible for her placement. The embassy has devoted an enormous amount of effort in locating [her]."

AFP with a report from Jerome Aning



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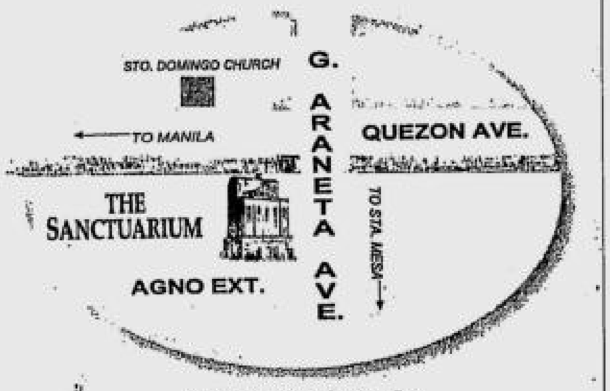

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Borrowers who are delinquent in the payment of their monthly loan amortizations as of 30 September 2004 including those with final claims whose contingency and filing dates fall within the availment period.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS?

Availment period is from 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

Payment of arrears (outstanding principal and interest) may be made in partial or in full during the availment period.

The amount of penalties to be condoned is proportionate to the amount of arrears paid. For example, if all arrears are paid, then all corresponding penalties are condoned. If only 50% of arrears are paid, then only 50% of penalties are condoned. The remaining arrears will continue to accumulate penalties.

If the remaining arrears are subsequently paid during the availment period, the accumulated penalties are condoned.

Borrowers shall be allowed to apply for short-term member loans only after two (2) years from the date of the last payment made within the condonation period.

A borrower who pays at least P500 will be eligible to participate in the Delinquency Assistance Program, the winner of which will be entitled to a P5,000 discount from his liabilities.

Mechanics of the DAP:

Delinquency assistance totalling four hundred (400) at P5,000 each shall be raffled off to borrowers who avail of the condonation program.

The borrower is entitled to one (1) raffle entry for every P500 payment to be assigned by a computer-generated system.

A borrower can only win twice for the entire condonation period.

One hundred (100) winners of P5,000 each will be drawn each quarter.

The prize shall be applied to the borrower's loan balance, if any; the excess shall be paid to the borrower.

SSS employees may avail of the condonation program but shall be disqualified to participate in the quarterly draws.

HOW CAN A MEMBER AVAIL OF THE CONDONATION PROGRAM?

Borrower shall fill-up an Application for Penalty Condonation Form.

Borrower shall be issued Statement of Account (SA) and Payment Return Form (ML-1) stamped "With Application for Condonation of Penalty" on both documents.

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Dayrit for natural family planning

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MAN who vigorously peddled the idea of reproductive health to Filipinos is himself not sold to the idea of artificial family planning.

Outgoing Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said Thursday night that he preferred natural family planning, the method endorsed by Catholic Church leaders with whom he was often at loggerheads.

"I would advise my children to go for natural family planning," he told a select group of reporters over dinner in Manila. "I'm not comfortable with people taking chemicals for a long time."

Dayrit is the chief proponent of the Department of Health's Ligtas Buntis program which Church officials have consistently denounced as "anti-life."

In one interview with the INQUIRER, Dayrit hinted that he also had reservations in the implementation of the program. He said it was part of the Arroyo administration's policy.

Critics were not convinced by Dayrit's position that the campaign promoted both the natural and artificial family planning methods to educate the public on reproductive health.

Former health official Ligaya Acosta had claimed that health workers often endorsed only contraceptives because they were much easier to market than natural family planning.

She was outraged by the idea that the DOH would purportedly spread even intrauterine devices (IUDs) which pro-life advocates dismiss as abortifacients.

In his final days as health secretary, Dayrit asked critics not to associate Ligtas Buntis with population control.

Amnesty for mutiny leaders opposed

Let them face the music, say lawmakers on leniency plea

By Michael Lim Ubac

LET them face the consequences of their actions.

This was the reaction of the House committee on justice to the leniency plea of 96 junior officers who led the failed July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

"Justice must be served as a lesson to other military adventurists and destabilizers," said Reps. Exequiel Javier (Lakas-CMD, Antique) and Antonio Cuenco (Lakas-CMD, Cebu City), both members of the House committee on justice which yesterday opposed the granting of any amnesty to the Oakwood mutiny leaders.

Javier said the Magdalo officers' apology to President Macapagal-Arroyo might help lower their sentence but would not force Congress or Malacañang to decree a general amnesty for them.

Javier and Cuenco also doubted that the military court would accede to the leniency plea of the Magdalo officers despite having led the Oakwood mutiny and "created chaos."

"While plea bargaining is an open legal option for the Magdalo officers, they should not expect their penalty to be as light as the other mutineers who were earlier reinstated but demoted in rank by the military court," said Javier.

On Wednesday, the military tribunal ordered the release of 184 enlisted men who participated in the failed rebellion after mutiny charges against them were dropped. The soldiers had pleaded guilty to charges of disrespect and insubordination and were sentenced to a year of hard labor, demotion by three ranks and forfeiture of two-third of their basic salaries for three to six months.

Javier said the Magdalo officers had "bigger responsibilities" than the 184 enlisted men who were allegedly just misled into joining the Oakwood mutiny.

"Disregarding their sworn duty and putting national security at risk is no joke. They should learn to accept the consequences of their wrongdoing," Javier said.

Cuenco believed that a lighter penalty was improbable for the Magdalo officers since they led the failed mutiny and had direct contact with destabilizers.

"Applying the command responsibility principle, the Magdalo officers are liable for the participation of the rank and file soldiers in the mutiny," said Cuenco.

But the militant group Bayan Muna insisted yesterday that the junior officers could still be unconditionally released from detention "in view of the valid grievances they raised."

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo said the "absence of actual shooting" could be considered as a mitigating circumstance to warrant their release.

Ocampo, however, clarified that the release of the mutineers should be accompanied by an honest-to-goodness and top-to-bottom reforms in the Armed Forces.

However, Reps. Vincent Garcia (NPC, Davao City), vice chair of the House committee on national defense, and Douglas Cagas (NPC, Davao del Sur), vice chair of the committee on good government, warned that the verdict of the five-man military tribunal on the enlisted men might send a wrong signal to the men in un uniform and the people they had sworn to protect.

Coronacion appointment questioned but 2 senators say: Give him a chance

By TJ Burgonio

WHY him?

Coconut farmers' groups yesterday expressed surprise at the appointment of Danilo Coronacion as the new chief of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, saying he has yet to clear his role in the controversial coconut plantation project in Agusan del Sur.

Coronacion was recently named president and chief executive officer of CIIF, replacing Rolando Golez who quit after coming under fire over disclosures that he had been enjoying perks and privileges at the expense of coconut farmers.

"Why him? He's involved in the controversial Agusan del Sur project. He's among those being investigated for that," said Manuel Quiambao, president of the Philippine Ecumenical Action for Community Empowerment Foundation Inc. (Peace).

"He's part of the conspirators. How come he was appointed to that post? He should not have been appointed since the inquiry was still pending," he added in an interview.

Coronacion, former administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), shrugged this off and said that his role in the project had been fully explained at the Senate public hearings.

"That's a non-issue. Even during the Senate hearing, the matter has been sufficiently explained. All documents have been submitted," he said in an interview.

The CIIF is the trustee of the P140-billion coconut levy fund.

Coronacion had been summoned thrice to an inquiry by the Senate committee on agriculture and food for his role in the government's plan to develop 110,000 hectares of the Agusan Valley into a coconut plantation.

A signatory to the November 2000 memorandum of understanding to explore the project as PCA administrator, he had testified that the project was still in the conceptual stage and that no money was spent for a feasibility study on the project.

Senators opened the inquiry into the project after then PCA administrator Evangeline Valbuena alleged that the government planned to use the coco levy fund to bankroll the P8.4 billion project, a claim dismissed by agriculture officials.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who, along with Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., sought an inquiry into the use of coco levy funds, said that Coronacion should be given a chance to prove his worth.

"I hope that under his watch, the coconut levy funds will not be wasted and will be used for the benefit of the coco farmers," he said.

Coronacion assured coconut farmers that he would keep their interest foremost in his mind once he assumes the top post at the CIIF.

"I come from a family of farmers. I was born and grew up in a farm in Real, Quezon. I'm a coconut farmer," he said, stressing that he would seek a balance between the social responsibility and revenue-generating goals of the CIIF, among other goals.

Efren Villaseñor, president of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Samahang Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan, for his part, urged the government to nominate more coconut farmers to the boards of the CIIF Oil Mills Group.

So far, only 17 coconut farmers sit on the boards of the six CIIF oil mills, he said.

Villaseñor said that the government should nominate at least two coconut farmers to the board of San Miguel Corp. "to protect" the 24-percent CIIF shares in the food and beverage conglomerate.

He also sought the establishment of a coconut development trust fund for the immediate utilization of coco levy funds.

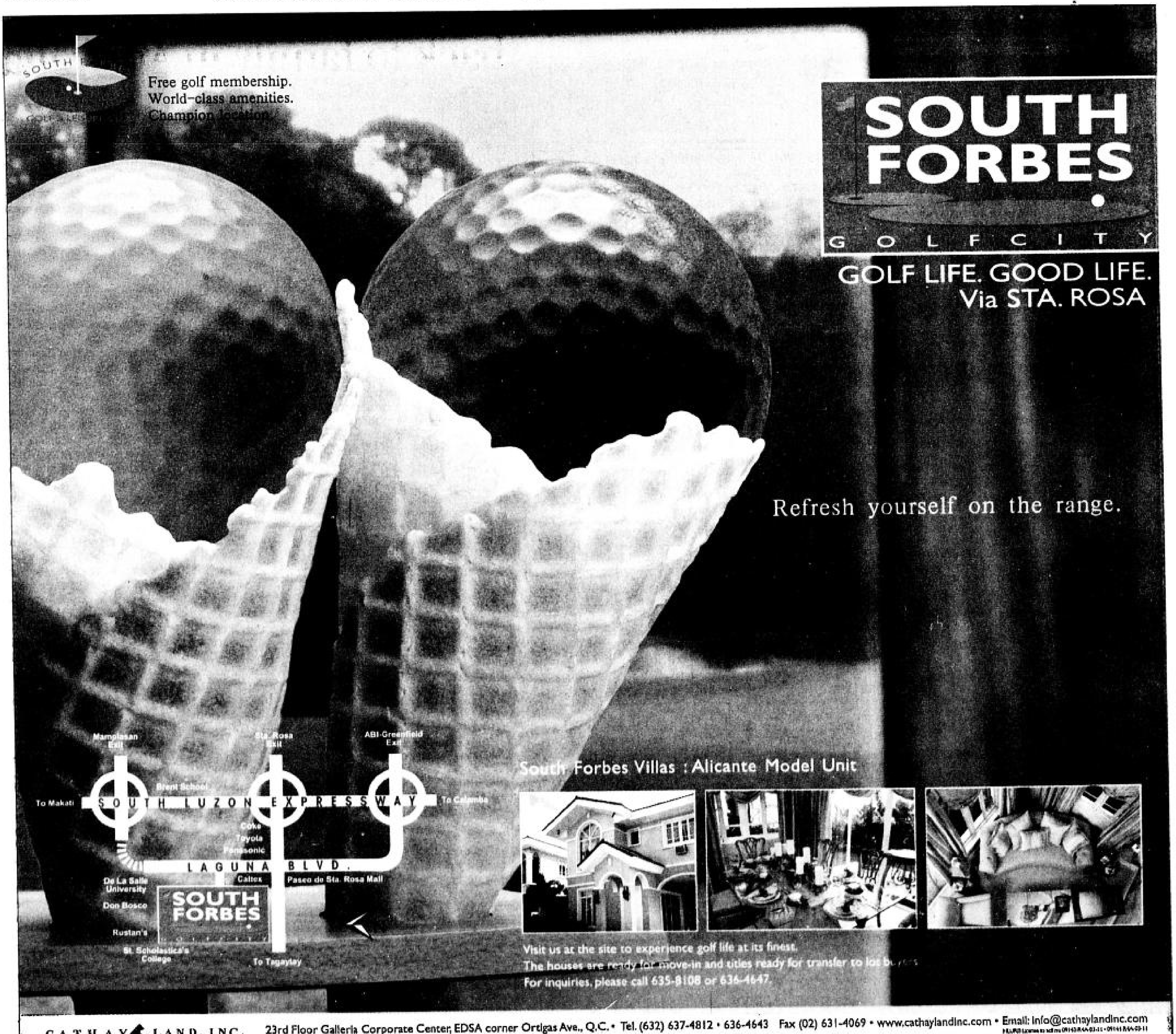
GMA says new 'apo' makes her more inspired

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said her third granddaughter in three years is another source of inspiration for her.

"It makes me more inspired to work for the future of our country, so that the world in which she will grow up will be a much better world than what we have today," the President said in a briefing.

The President visited Mariuš Angelique on Thursday at the Medical City in Pasig. Angelique is the second child of Rep. Juan Miguel (Mikey) Arroyo and wife Maria Angela Montenegro.

Her other grandchildren are Mikaela Gloria (the first child of Mikey and Angela) and Eva Victoria (the first child of Diosdado Ignacio Arroyo and wife Victoria Manotoc). *Gil Cabacungan*



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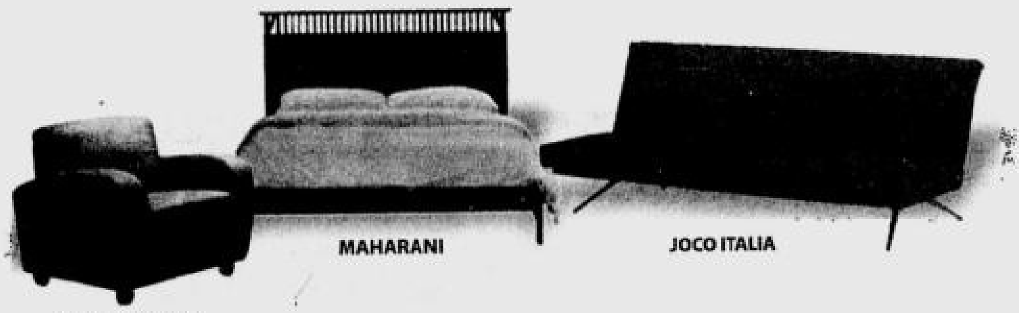
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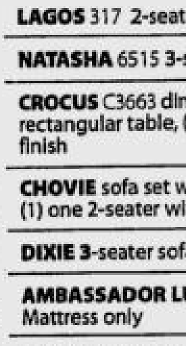

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DITTANY dining set for (4) four with (1) one table (4) four chairs, dirty oak finish	P 16,595.00	**P 9,950.00**	40%
NAVIS queen size bed with headboard and bedframe, wenge finish	P 21,950.00	**P 17,560.00**	20%
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IN FRIENDLIER TIMES, Victor Corpus and Mike Defensor. FILE PHOTO

Approval of engine replacement deal was conditional, says Neri

From page A1

According to officials close to Corpus, the retired general had resigned on April 27 because he found "overpriced" the ATI-Iveco contract which they alleged was being pushed by Defensor.

Tape of meeting

The environment secretary claimed it was the Corpus-led board that approved the deal at the March 14 board meeting and invited everyone to listen to the tape of the meeting.

Yesterday, Corpus said he "never signed nor approved" the deal. He said his approval for the MOA was sought from the very first board meeting he attended on Dec. 6, 2004, just three days after he was appointed NRDC ex-officio chair by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Right then and there, they presented it to me and they wanted me to sign it even without a briefing. They were trying to trick me," Corpus said in Filipino in a telephone interview.

Neri said even Development Bank of the Philippines chair Vitaliano Nañagas, who was also at the meeting, did not remember Corpus moving for approval of the MOA.

But a copy of the minutes of the March 14 meeting showed the chair, meaning Corpus, as saying: "According to the Chairman, we move for the approval after fulfilling the conditions, to wit, (1) the PERRC waiver, (2) the TIDCORP letter, (3) the newspaper ad and (4) the FEDJODAP settlement."

It was Corpus

Defensor has quoted the statement to support his claim that it was Corpus, and not him, who wanted the project approved.

NRDC president Angelico Salud yesterday explained that Corpus' motion was seconded by him and, since nobody objected, the motion was carried.

Salud explained that the approval was indeed conditional on the four items being fulfilled.

First, the directors wanted to make sure that the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines would support the project.

Second, they wanted the full settlement of obligations of Pilipinas Engine Remanufacturing and Recondition Corp. to the NRDC under an earlier engine replacement project that was shelved.

The third condition concerned the NRDC's publication of newspaper advertisements inviting other diesel engine manufacturers to make a proposal to the NRDC to ensure that the project was open to others to join, not just ATI-Iveco.

Fourth condition

All the conditions have been fulfilled except for the last. The directors wanted a letter from the Trade and Investment Development Corp., also known as the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency, saying that there is an application from the ATI-Iveco to secure a $200-million loan guarantee from Tidcorp.

Salud clarified that even if approved, the MOA cannot be signed and executed until the four conditions are fulfilled. Only then can the NRDC move to execute the agreement in another board meeting, he said.

He said it was true that Corpus had not signed because there was no agreement to sign yet. And besides it was the NRDC president and not the chair who is authorized to sign the contract.

Salud also clarified that in a board meeting when the chair moves for approval, the motion is usually carried.

Malacañang meanwhile said Defensor would act as chair of the NRDC until the President appoints someone to replace Corpus.

In a briefing, the President said the NRDC post was Defensor's because it was part of his portfolio as environment secretary. Corpus was appointed as alternate chair of NRDC in December, after which Defensor left him to run the day-to-day affairs. *Fe B. Zamora and Gil C. Cabacungan*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 14, 2005
St. Matthias, Apostle

1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17,20-26
Gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

"You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

"This is my command, that you love one another."

Commentary

WE are told that the greatest love is to give one's life for one's friends and we are the friends of God when we give our lives in obedience to Jesus' Word of life. In this giving we are freed from fear and know deep abiding joy. In obedience we learn to know the Father as Jesus did, but we must remember it is Jesus who chooses us and sends us out to bear fruit in the world. Matthias, the apostle who replaces Judas the betrayer dies a martyr, as do all the disciples except John who dies in exile writing love letters to his beloved children, dying of love. We are chosen by God, baptized and anointed in the Spirit and sent out to lay down our lives, to love our enemies and make them all friends and to bring the Word of life to all we encounter. This is the only commandment and it covers everything we do with our lives.

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Correction

THE ARTICLE titled "All the goodness of grandma's cooking," which appeared Thursday on Page E1 of the Lifestyle section, May 12, 2005, misidentified the Legend Villas' general manager as Ginger King-Villanueva. It should have been Ginger King-Villavicencio.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Iraq toll from May attacks tops 400

BAGHDAD—The death toll from insurgent attacks since Iraq's government took office at the start of the month passed 400 as a car bombing in Baghdad killed at least 15 and wounded more than 80.

Violence was again in evidence, overshadowing Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari efforts at seizing the political initiative and US hopes of bringing peace to the strife-torn country. The deaths of four US marines raised to 19 the number of US servicemen killed since Saturday.

The number of US servicemen killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion now stands at 1,609 according to an AFP tally based on Pentagon figures.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said: "The wave of violence is a sign of the terrorists' weakness. The only recourse they have left are car bombs. They have lost control of various cities and have been surrounded," he told the daily Folha de Sao Paulo while at a summit in Brazil.

Talabani also urged media outlets not to portray the attackers as "heroes."

A suicide bomber killed 15 and wounded at least 84 in the busy, ethnically mixed eastern Jadida district of the capital, police and hospital sources said.

At least eight cars and a bus were caught in the blast, which blew out windows and storefronts and sent street vendors' stalls flying.

Twisted bodies in ripped clothes were wheeled away on the peddlers' carts by residents as thick black smoke billowed into the sky.

Medics and police extracted charred bodies from the bus. When US forces who arrived after the blast fired warning shots into the air to disperse the crowd, bystanders threw stones at them, witnesses said.

A second bomb, planted in a parked car, exploded three hours later as a US military convoy drove by, wounding five Iraqi civilians in the western Khadra district, an interior ministry official said.

Three bombs went off in the ethnic tinderbox of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, killing one civilian and wounding five, including a policeman. Two explosions were in predominantly Kurdish areas, said police chief General Turhan Yusef.

In further unrest, a general in Iraq's newly formed army and an interior ministry police colonel were shot dead in separate incidents in Baghdad, security officials said.

Al-Qaida frontman in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for killing the colonel in a statement posted on the Internet. The statement's authenticity could not be verified. *AFP*

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Huge Afghan anti-US protests over Koran spread

KABUL—The biggest anti-US protests since the fall of the Taliban spread across Afghanistan Thursday, as unrest sparked by alleged abuse of the Koran at the US jail in Guantanamo Bay left three more people dead.

Seven people have been killed and at least 76 injured during three days of violent demonstrations, all of them in clashes with security forces and police in conservative towns east of the capital Kabul.

Angry Afghans shouting "Death to America" poured onto the streets of Kabul itself for the first time Thursday as protests at the reported religious desecration also broke out in 10 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

The Koran controversy has also spread to Pakistan, where demonstrations were held in Peshawar and Quetta, two major cities close to the border with Afghanistan.

Two protesters were killed on Thursday when gunfire erupted as police stopped them marching into the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad from a district just to the northwest, deputy governor of Nangarhar province Mohammad Asif Qazizada said.

Jalalabad was the scene of a major riot on Wednesday in which four people died when police opened fire to control a mob that torched the buildings of several aid agencies, the Pakistani consulate and the governor's house.

Meanwhile one person died and four were wounded when rioters attacked a police station in the Chak district of Wardak province, which borders Kabul, and a weapons store exploded, interior ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said.

The protests were sparked by a small report in Newsweek magazine last week that interrogators at the US military detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, desecrated copies of the Koran by leaving them in toilet cubicles and even stuffing one down a lavatory to rattle Muslim prisoners.

More than 500 detainees, most captured in Afghanistan or Pakistan following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, are held as "enemy combatants" at Guantanamo.

The US, which leads a coalition of some 18,000 troops hunting Taliban militants three years after the regime was toppled, has promised to look into the claims. The US military has not been involved in policing the protests.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Thursday called disrespect for the holy book "abhorrent" and promised to punish offenders.

But the top US military officer said a review of interrogation logs has so far found no evidence to corroborate the explosive allegations.

"... they cannot confirm yet that there was ever the case of the toilet incident except in one case, a log entry that they still have to confirm, where a detainee was reported by a guard to be ripping pages out of a Koran and putting them in a toilet to stop it up as a protest," said General Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In Kabul, student demonstrators shouted slogans calling on US President George W. Bush to apologize to Islamic countries and set a US flag ablaze. The protest ended peacefully.

Thousands of people also took to the streets in the northern provinces of Parwan, Kapisa and Takhar, Laghman in the east, Logar and Khost in the southeast and the southern province of Kandahar.

The United Nations and foreign aid agencies evacuated hundreds of workers from Jalalabad fearing further violence.

Afghan officials have suggested that elements opposed to the US-backed effort to rebuild the war-ravaged country have coordinated the violence, and protests come amid a recent deterioration in security.

Veteran Afghan analyst Rahimullah Yusufzai said the protests gave the public a chance to vent their anger at President Hamid Karzai's government and the United States itself, but were unlikely to be coordinated.

"This is the biggest protest campaign in Afghanistan since the ouster of Taliban regime," the Pakistan-based analyst said.

Previous anti-US protests in Afghanistan were sparked by the deaths of civilians in US military operations and by the Iraq war but none have been so large. *AFP*

AFGHAN students destroy an Ameican flag as one shouts "Death to America" during a protest in Kabul, Afghanistan, May 12. A day after riots in an eastern city left four people dead, more than 200 young men marched from a dormitory block near Kabul University as news of a reported abuse of Islam's holy book at the US jail in Guantanamo Bay spread to the capital. AP

Japan court rejects payment over China massacre

TOKYO—A Japanese court on Friday refused compensation for three survivors of a 1932 massacre of Chinese villagers by the Japanese Imperial Army amid a row between the two countries over treatment of history.

The survivors each sought 60 million yen ($562,300) from the Japanese government but the Tokyo High Court upheld a June 2002 district court ruling that there was no law at the time of the massacre obliging state compensation.

A supporter rushed out of the courtroom with a piece of paper saying "unfair ruling" to activists and reporters waiting outside.

In 1932, Japanese troops rounded up and machine-gunned residents of a village in Liaoning province in northeastern China who the military suspected of taking part in the resistance against Japanese occupation.

The actual number of victims has never been confirmed, but the Jiji Press news agency said estimates varied from 700 to 3,000.

Japan has consistently rejected damage suits by victims of its wartime atrocities, saying that compensation is between states rather than individuals and that the legal framework has changed since Tokyo adopted its pacifist 1947 constitution. *AFP*

Rapes trigger fury in India

NEW DELHI—A series of brutal rapes across India in the past few months has triggered street protests and calls for better security for women in a country where rape victims often face social ostracism.

Dozens of girls marched through New Delhi this week after a 20-year-old college student was raped by four men in a car before being dumped on the road.

The incident caused a furor in parliament where the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party demanded the home minister's resignation after city police failed to take action despite being informed within 15 minutes of the girl's abduction.

"More women are killed or injured in sexual assault than through terrorism. Yet, how often have you seen the issue debated in parliament or figuring on political agendas?" leading activist Brinda Karat told the Times of India.

Angry residents in Bombay also took to the streets after a drunk policeman raped a girl in daylight on a beach front boulevard in the city, considered India's safest for women.

Delhi women demanded night roadside food stalls be closed, saying they were a meeting point for no-gooders and spawned crimes such as kidnapping and rape. *Reuters*

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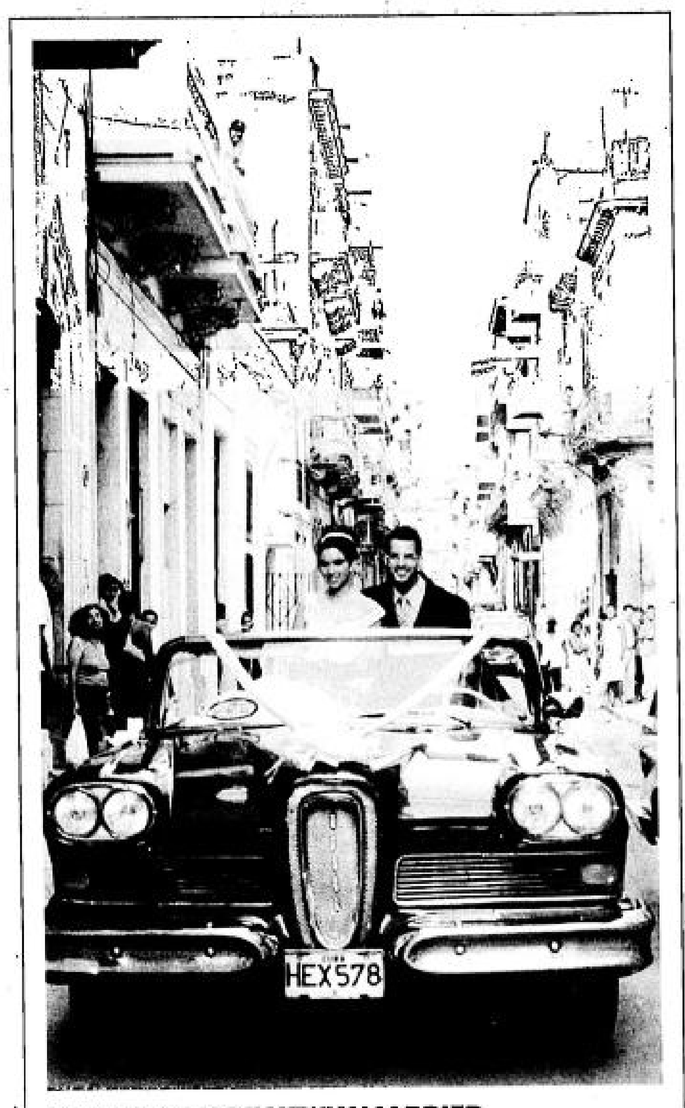

HONK IF YOU'RE NEWLY MARRIED
Newlyweds Laura and Sergio are driven through the streets of Old Havana, May 12. It is a custom for newlywed couples in Cuba to drive around old Havana in vintage cars honking loudly while being greeted by pedestrians. REUTERS

France, Britain, Germany warn Iran not to resume nuclear work

VIENNA—France, Britain and Germany have warned Iran they will break off talks and join Washington in seeking UN Security Council action if Tehran makes good on its threats to resume atomic work, EU officials said on Thursday.

The foreign ministers of the European Union's three biggest powers sent a strongly worded letter to Hassan Rohani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, warning that resuming potentially arms-related nuclear work "would bring the negotiating process to an end," an EU diplomat quoted the letter as saying.

"The consequences could only be negative for Iran," it said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair spelled out the potential consequences, telling reporters: "We certainly will support referral to the United Nations Security Council if Iran breaches its obligations and undertakings."

The United States believes Iran's nuclear energy program is a front to develop atomic weapons and has been pressing for Iran's case to be sent to the 15-member UN council for possible economic sanctions and other actions.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the United States hoped that despite Iran's threats the Islamic republic would not derail the negotiations.

"The Security Council always remains an option should the Iranians not live up to their obligations, but we are still hopeful that they will recognize where they are," she told US lawmakers.

The EU shares US suspicions but has offered incentives to try to get Tehran to give up its atomic fuel program, which Iran insists is only for nuclear power plants, not for arms.

The EU letter, news of which was first reported by the Washington Post, proposed "ministerial level talks" between the Iranians and Europeans within the next two weeks to break the impasse and avoid a crisis, EU diplomats said.

Iran refuses to give up uranium fuel production, which it says is its sovereign right. Tired with the slow pace of talks, Tehran has informed the EU that time is running out and it will soon resume parts of its uranium enrichment program.

The new EU warning may have had an immediate effect.

Officials close to the issue said Tehran might give talks with the EU one last chance rather than go ahead with plans to break UN seals and restart part of its nuclear fuel program.

Only hours earlier, a diplomat close to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the UN agency was expecting a letter from Iran saying Tehran would restart part of its nuclear fuel program.

Tehran's chief delegate to the IAEA, Sirus Naseri, arrived in Vienna on Wednesday with a letter for IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, but he may not deliver it, diplomats said.

One official said the Iranians had held meetings with the Europeans in recent days, fostering new hope for negotiations that began in November after Tehran agreed to suspend all activities linked to the enrichment of uranium.

But Rohani said Tehran would no longer feel bound by the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if it was denied the right to pursue a full civilian nuclear energy program.

"If Iran cannot use its legitimate rights in the framework of the NPT, it will no longer have respect for the treaty," the semi-official ISNA students news agency cited Rohani as saying.

A senior diplomat close to the IAEA said he was convinced Iran would not resume any enrichment activities until well after the country's June 17 presidential election.

It is no accident the latest crisis in the EU-Iran talks comes a month before the election, European diplomats said. *Reuters*

Burma may delay turn to lead Asean as pressure grows

WASHINGTON—Thailand's foreign minister hinted on Thursday that Burma, under fire for its repressive domestic policies, could delay its turn to lead the Asean regional grouping to avoid confrontation with the West.

Kantathi Supamongkon said that he had worked out a compromise to resolve the dispute over Burma taking the rotating chairmanship of the Association of South East Asian Nations in 2006.

The United States and the European Union have threatened to boycott high-level meetings with the group if Burma takes over next year without making progress on human rights, including freeing opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The US also said it might withhold funding to several development projects in the region, particularly in the poorer countries in southeast Asia.

The issue has threatened the unity of 10-member Asean, with some member countries opposing Burma's chairmanship unless it shows concrete progress on a roadmap to democracy.

Kantathi gave no concrete details of the plan but he told reporters in Washington that one way of avoiding a showdown might be for Burma, formerly known as Burma, to postpone its turn to chair Asean.

"Just as an example, if they were to postpone their chairmanship then there would be a strong incentive for them to also complete that process of national reconciliation so that they could come back and participate actively in Asean," he said.

Kantathi said Burma's military junta had sent Thailand and other nations "a general signal that they would consider the interests of Asean above their interests."

"There is a willingness to discuss issues which previously had been seen as internal," said the foreign minister, who was to meet his US counterpart, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on Friday.

"It's not a black and white picture," he added. "It's a picture with technicolor, so we feel we should look at it in that real light." *Reuters*

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OPINION

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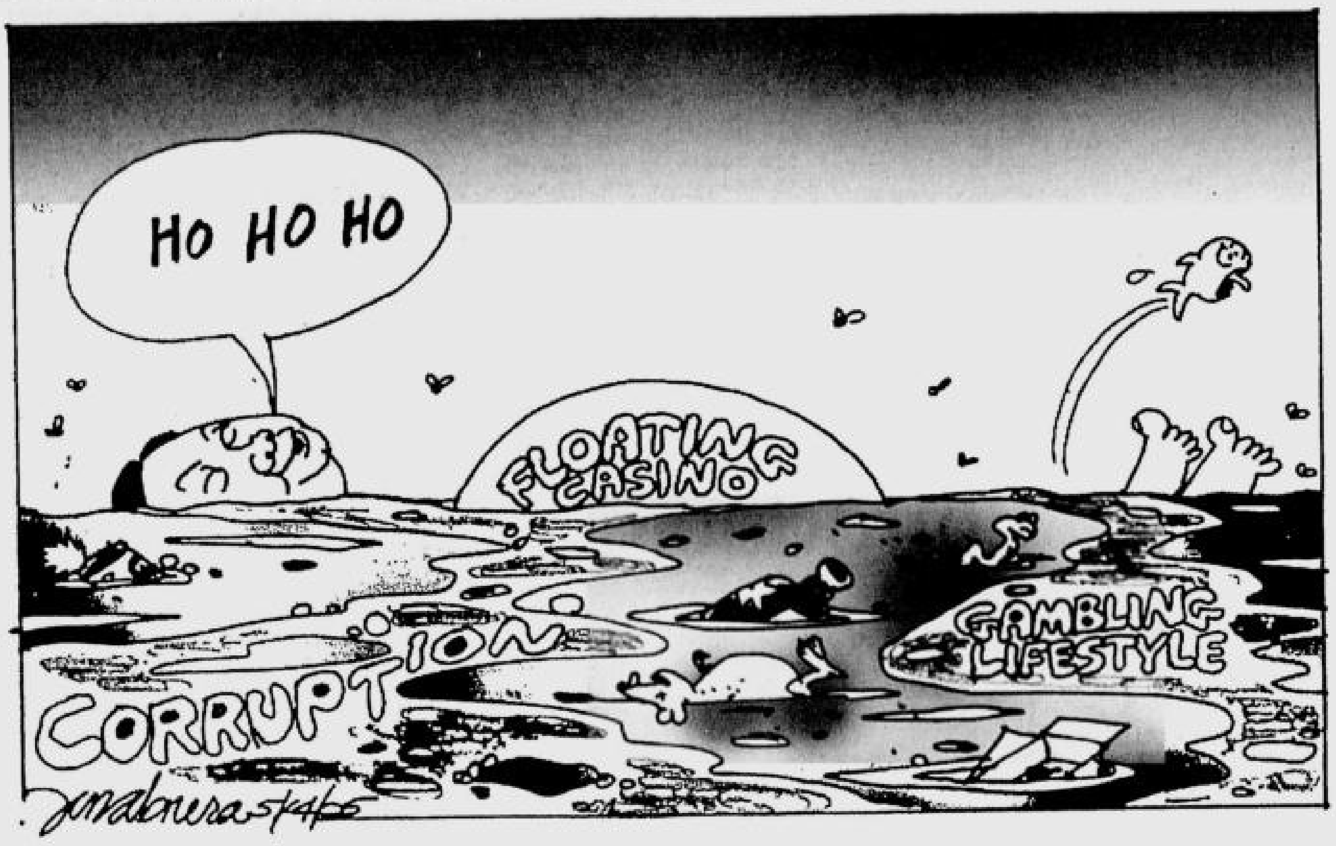


Editorials

Crime...

NOTEWORTHY is the general absence of public indignation over the plea bargain that will allow the release from detention of 184 enlisted men who took part in what has come to be known as the Oakwood mutiny of July 2003. Either the public is in the throes of protest fatigue, or it is too engrossed in keeping body and soul together amid the rocketing costs of basic goods and services to be bothered. It could also be that the public deems the enlisted men—with ranks ranging from master sergeant to private—as the least accountable for the crime, given the military chain of command. But the case of their officers, particularly the core leaders of the mutiny, ought to be something else altogether. And let's not forget the instigators, the backers, the moneybags.

The military court took only an hour to issue a verdict after the accused pleaded guilty to disrespect and insubordination, with the main charge of mutiny dropped. In that respect, the plea bargain fulfilled its purpose. Both the prosecutors and the defense lawyers (at least one of whom has made a name in the field of human rights) have expressed satisfaction with the sentence (demotion by three ranks, forfeiture of two-thirds of basic salaries for three to six months, and confinement with hard labor for a year). To comments that the accused got off lightly, chief prosecutor Col. Julius Magno said the demotion and forfeiture of pay were actually "very grave." And indeed the observer attentive to the yawning gap between the wine-and-roses lifestyle of the top brass and the dire straits of the foot soldiers would tend to agree.

But whether the case of the enlisted men's superiors would also elicit as "fair" a verdict remains to be seen. And whether the wait is for the long haul or the short term is anybody's guess. That the separate trial of Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV et al. has yet to reach the arraignment stage merely underscores the snail's pace of the judicial system in these parts. It highlights as well a political setting where the military (whether active or retired) appears to still chafe under civilian supremacy—and civilian authorities are hard put to play hardball.

...And punishment

THE GRIEVANCES expressed by the so-called Magdalo group included the lack of housing and supplies for soldiers, and the alleged sale of arms and ammunition by military officers to rebel groups, including the extremist Abu Sayyaf. The salute and apology extended by the Magdalo leaders to President Macapagal-Arroyo more than a year later indicated their withdrawal of their expressed grievances as well as their demand for her resignation and those of other officials. But a Pulse Asia survey conducted about a month after the mutiny showed that the majority of the respondents (55 percent) believed these grievances to be "sufficient reason for soldiers to rebel against the government."

Of course, no one can say exactly whether contrition or pragmatism was the reason for the Magdalo leaders' salute and apology. (During the mutiny, which was brought live to homes nationwide courtesy of the wonders of communication technology, the young officers came across as idealistic and earnest, but also brash, swaggering and overbearing—reminiscent, according to those old enough to remember, of the Marcos military. It would seem as if their detention had worn them down.) Or whether that gesture to the commander in chief whom Trillanes had earlier derided as a "yak-yak" sort would ultimately lead to another pushup-type penalty. (Once upon a time, after all, the Magdalo's inspiration, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, and his cohorts were slapped with such a "punishment," reinforcing the idea that the military is not much more than an old-boys club.)

The 2003 mutiny arrested the "momentum" of the Philippine economy, according to then Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. Before the Magdalo dug in at the tony Oakwood Premier Ayala Center and threatened to blow up portions of Makati's commercial district, "the deficit was under control, domestic interest rates were down, inflation was benign, and growth appeared to be improving," Camacho said.

No exact figure is immediately available to indicate the damage done. But Honasan's coup attempt in December 1989, in the same Makati commercial district, cost the economy an estimated $1.5 billion, according to business leaders. No one has yet paid for it.

The unawakened Slumberland

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

LIKE many of my fellow columnists, I consider myself an advocate of lost causes. I gripe about many public issues that the erring officials concerned simply ignore without any accountability. Many of my readers join me in these complaints, but they too are disappointed when nothing happens. The convenient excuse of the government agencies for their inaction is another inaction—silence.

My best example is the Lacson case, which attracted a lot of attention in 2001 when three committees of the Senate—the Blue Ribbon committee, the committee on national defense and security, and the committee on public order and illegal drugs—questioned their colleague on charges of drug trafficking, money laundering and other serious offenses. Mary "Rosebud" Ong, Victor Corpus and others testified against him, and his associates led by Reynaldo Acop defended him. The proceedings were televised and reported on the radio and by the daily papers until the investigation was abruptly closed on Sept. 5 of that year. There followed the promise that the decision of the joint committees would be rendered soon.

Certain incidents, including a short-lived take-over of power by the Senate minority, prevented the disclosure of the report. The majority soon resumed its leadership, but realignments caused by the coming presidential elections further delayed action on the committee report that generally suggested Lacson's administrative and criminal responsibility. An attempt of Sen. Robert Z. Barbers to submit Committee Report No. 237 to the Senate plenary was blocked by Sen. Tito Sotto. So the matter rested until the 2004 elections were held, resulting among others things in the reorganization of the Senate.

The Lacson case is now effectively dead despite the considerable public funds and official time spent in its investigation. The questionable conduct of one of the members of the Senate and a candidate for president of the Philippines remained unresolved during the election campaign last year. The case cannot be officially revived except by resolution of the reorganized Senate and without the participation of some of the original probers, who heard the testimony of the witnesses and considered their documentary evidence. Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, who was the chair of the lead committee, is no longer incumbent. John Campos, a Lacson aide, was murdered later for reasons unknown.

I wrote in this column no less than 13 times about the delay in the decision of the Lacson case but not one of my fellow columnists, unless I disremember, joined me to protest. The investigation, after all, was not the usual grandstanding about minor matters, like the non-admission of a sexy actress to a Catholic university or the questionable preparation of taho. It concerned the possible liability of a high government official for serious criminal and administrative offenses in which the whole nation was deeply interested.

I believed that as a private citizen, I was entitled to be informed, more so because Lacson was running for the highest office in the land, of how his colleagues in the Senate had voted on his investigation. It was a crucial question that other citizens like me felt should be categorically answered instead of evaded. I especially deplored Sen. Loren Legarda's resignation as majority floor leader, in which capacity she was originally determined to have the controversial report calendared for deliberation by the whole Senate.

A friend of mine informed me that Lacson had asked him why I was so angry with the senator in nagging the Senate for his discipline. I don't know Lacson, have never met him, and in fact praised him in this column for conducting the most respectable campaign during the last election. I simply wanted the Senate to reveal the result of its investigation of their fellow member as a matter of public interest that the public had a right to know.

And now that I have said my last say about the Lacson investigation, let me confess to a mea culpa.

On April 9, I faulted the Office of the Ombudsman for its "inexcusable neglect" in failing to prosecute a case it had filed against the Marcos couple and their cronies in connection with the non-payment of the amount of P160 million plus interest for the purchase of the Cuba Plaza Hotel. I now find that the complaint of the Republic of the Philippines was filed in 1987 by the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Office of the Solicitor General and not by the Office of the Ombudsman. I regret my inexcusable error and offer the Ombudsman my sincere apologies.

The case was dismissed without prejudice by the Sandiganbayan on March 28, 2005, "considering that the PCGG is not ready this afternoon and that this case has been pending for a long time already..."

And since we are still talking of official inaction, perhaps we should investigate how many of the cases filed since Edsa I against the Marcoses, whether by the Ombudsman, the PCGG, or the Solicitor General, are still undecided by the courts of justice, including the Supreme Court. We may be treading on the Unawakened Slumberland.

The crucible

Commentary

Nono Alfonso, SJ
Institute on Church and Social Issues

REACTING to US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoelick's recent challenge, President Arroyo declared that her government is actively fighting corruption. "The administration," she said, "shall continue to take grafters to account as we push for good governance, transparency and top quality public services." Speaking on the issue of lavish lifestyle of government officials, she further promised that her administration "will not tolerate corruption in any form...no high officials are indispensable or untouchable on this score."

Her resolve it seems will be tried in a controversial issue that has long been waiting for a resolution. We refer to the plight of some 600 tribal families from Southern Palawan who were displaced from their ancestral grounds to give way to Eduardo Cojuangco's famous pearl farm. This issue will be a crucible for the Arroyo administration for several reasons. First, it involves the powerful and the moneyed against whom this government has not yet won any real and significant case. The big fish, as it were, are yet to be caught. Secondly, although cases have been filed in anti-graft bodies such as the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Sandiganbayan, the current issue is one of social and economic justice. Amid the hunger and poverty affecting the population now, GMA's rhetoric on her concern for the poor will be severely tested in this case.

The story of these tribal communities harks back to the 1970s during the early years of martial law. Under Ferdinand Marcos' agrarian reform law, Cojuanco's lands in Luzon were supposedly expropriated. In return, he was promised 10 hectares in Palawan for every hectare he lost. Unfortunately, the promised land was the ancestral domain of some tribal communities involving two islands and six municipalities. In 1974, the military descended on the islands and asked the people there to evacuate, saying that their lots were now the property of Cojuangco. They were made to sign blank sheets of paper. Tearfully and fearfully, they fled to neighboring communities.

One island, Bugsuk, was first used for Cojuangco's coconut hybrid project. This failed, however, and in 1980, his brother Manuel entered into a joint venture with Jacques Branellec, a French businessman, and thus was born the now famous Jewelmer Pearl Farm. The farm covered some 9,800 hectares of traditional fishing grounds between the islands of Bugsuk and Pandanan.

Over time, the boundaries of the farm were stretched until finally no fishing or commercial vessels were allowed to pass through these waters. Even the poor communities around, including the tribal communities, were not allowed to fish in the area, depriving them of their precious means of survival and livelihood. This prohibition was enforced in no small way by security forces—both private and the national police—guarding the area.

By some sleight of hand, in recent years, the municipality of Bugsuk also helped the pearl farm's cause first by extending the lease of the area to Jewelmer from the period 2000 to 2025, and then last year by proclaiming through an ordinance that the municipality is a marine eco-region, barring therefore any fishing or commercial activity in the vicinity—except of course that of the pearl farm! In exchange for the tiny financial tribute that Jewelmer is giving the municipality, the latter has willingly protected the interest of the former, to the detriment of the subsistence tribal folk.

Left to fend for themselves, and with their poverty worsening through the years, the affected communities have banded together. Calling themselves, "Sambulog" (One), the group is now fighting to get back the ancestral land and waters which are estimated to cover 57,000 hectares. They have lodged their claim with the National Commission for the Indigenous Peoples. To her credit, in 2003, GMA formed Task Force 63 to look into their plight, but after one or two dialogues among the parties involved, nothing much has happened.

The Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (Saligan), a lawyers' group, has taken on the case of Sambulog. It has found that the displacement of the tribal communities violated their rights to their ancestral domain which is protected by the Philippine Constitution and further by the 1997 Indigenous People's Rights Act. In 1989, a civil case against Cojuanco was filed with the Sandiganbayan by PCGG Commissioner Augusto Villarin for the questionable special patents issued by Marcos.

Saligan also found that Jewelmer's sole use of the Bugsuk and Pandanan waters violates the Constitution as well as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 which "protects the rights of fisherfolk in the preferential use of municipal waters."

Saligan says that even the environmental pretenses of the pearl farm do not hold water, for the pertinent law, the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, defines a nature reserve as an "outstanding ecosystem maintained to protect nature for scientific study, environmental monitoring, education, and for the maintenance of genetic resources." No one can argue that Jewelmer is there for such purposes rather than for the pearls that they are cultivating for commercial purposes. The DENR found in July 2003 that the pearl farm did not have an Environmental Compliance Certificate and did get the free and prior informed consent of the affected communities.

A lot is at stake in the ongoing controversy. GMA's strong republic must be founded on the respect for the country's laws, which as Saligan has found, are being undermined by the continuous operations of the pearl farm. And who was it who said that the greatness of a country is measured by how it takes care of its poor constituents, who in this case are the tribal minorities of Southern Palawan?

Iloilo Carmelites in South Africa

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CAPE TOWN—Three years ago, my former UP humanities professor, Josefina Constantino, who, for more than 30 years now, has been Sr. Teresa Joseph Patrick of the Carmelite Monastery of Gilmore, Quezon City, called me up to meet five Carmelite sisters from the Jaro (Iloilo) convent. They were leaving for South Africa right away in order to "rescue" a convent in Wynburg, Cape Town, that was in danger of closing down. The Wynburg convent had only seven nuns, some of whom were rather advanced in age and sickly, and there had been no new vocations from the white community there. Calling the Iloilo Carmelites the "new missionaries of our time," Sr. Teresa said their rescue mission in Africa would make a good story.

At the big send-off, the departing nuns were tearful about leaving their Jaro convent and their parents and siblings behind and going to a far-off continent they knew almost nothing about. The airport scene at Iloilo City was even more poignant for their relatives, for since the earliest times of the Church, whenever its missionaries left for foreign shores, they never returned. It was always a dying to self.

* * *

In Cape Town, we had a happy reunion with the Iloilo nuns at their convent, which has been relocated to a suburb called Retreat, in a "colored area" of the city. We brought letters and *pasalubong* from their Iloilo relatives and the Visayas and Gilmore Carmels, as well as our own *pasalubong* of *danggit* and *tuyo*. "*Ang tagal na naming hindi nakatikim nito*," they chorused. The sisters invited us to their morning Mass officiated by a Redemptorist priest, and fed us breakfast. I arranged for a live interview with them last Sunday on our regular dzRH 9:15 p.m. show, with Cecile Alvarez manning the Manila end, courtesy of Globe Telecom. Afterwards my husband and I shared with them our experiences at Pope John Paul II's funeral in Rome.

* * *

The five Ilongga sisters, led by Sr. Mary Grace Quino, who has assumed the post of prioress, are all healthy and well. The tears of sadness of three years ago have given way to the challenge of carrying out their mission for Christ in South Africa. Their contemplative life has been altered a bit here. Just before leaving Manila, Sisters Elizabeth Sandig, Carmela Malayo and Marie Therese Tibudan had to take a five-hour crash course in driving (but they had to learn right-hand driving in Cape Town). These nuns now drive an old Toyota car for errands for the convent, as it can't afford a driver and the public transportation system is not efficient. Sr. Mary Joan Gaitan is the convent's nurse and she is kept busy looking after the older nuns.

With the five Filipina nuns are six other nuns from Wynburg. Two are 88 years old: Sr. St. John, a white South African and one of the founders of Wynburg, and Sr. Agnes, who has Lebanese roots. Sr. St. John, her eyes twinkling, says that Sr. Agnes never lets her forget she is 10 days older. There's also Sr. Mary, a Dutch woman; Sr. Carol, who's English; Sr. Catherine, a South African; and Sr. Bridget, who's Swedish. One Wynburg sister has since died. These non-Asian nuns are very grateful for the timely arrival of the Filipina sisters and their continuing care for them. (Had the Wynburg convent closed, they would probably have been distributed among two other Carmels in South Africa.) Today the Retreat convent has not only survived, it's thriving and its nuns are very close.

* * *

Prioress Mary Grace is putting to good use her administrative abilities in fixing up the makeshift house in Retreat that the archdiocese of Cape Town gave them when they left Wynburg. It's at the back of a large school run by the archdiocese. They're happy about their decision to move to Retreat, as the former site had virtually no prospect of growth. In Retreat, says Sr. Mary Grace, they have integrated into the community and are part of a Church that's vibrant and alive. The Church in Africa is the fastest-growing in the Catholic Church, particularly among the blacks and the "coloreds" (the latter term refers to those of mixed ancestry, such as black African and Asian).

* * *

The prioress plans to do away with the old grills in the receiving parlor that have been a fixture in every Carmel convent since St. Teresa of Avila's time. She says the grills would only separate the faithful from the nuns, which would be unwise in South Africa, "a mission place." Moreover, she feels that the blacks and the colored are still sensitive to the memories of the apartheid policy of the white rulers of old. With the lack of priests, the sisters do not get to hear Masses of their own on such occasions such as the Midnight Mass on Christmas and the Easter Triduum. Instead they join the people at the parish where their convent is located. "It's a good way to identify with the local church; we are one Christian community," says Sr. Mary Grace, adding that the three years have been a very enriching experience for all the Filipinas.

* * *

The Carmelites have one postulant, Sr. Concetta Solomon, who is of mixed Jewish, German and Indian ancestry, and various inquiries about vocations have been received. Sr. Mary Grace is confident of more vocations once the Retreat convent is fully constructed. They have heard that their new area is fertile ground for vocations. The adjacent Catholic school has already produced a bishop, two priests and several sisters.

The Carmelites want to build a church which they plan to open to the local community, at an estimated cost of $80,000. Sr. Mary Grace is appealing for financial help especially from her *kasimanwa* from the Visayas to build this church for the South Africans. You may reach her at Carmel of St. Joseph, P.O. Box 121, Retreat, Cape 7965, South Africa, or at their cell phone +2772-435-7641.

(*On Monday: A Pinay nun's mission for God in English-speaking Africa.*)

Putting it on record

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I HAVE a high school religion teacher, an American Maryknoll nun, to thank for advice that has served me well all these decades in both my personal life and in my life as a journalist. The advice wasn't even hers; it was her mother's and it concerned love letters. "Never put down in writing," her mother told her, "what you don't want to read in The New York Times."

In short, observe discretion when putting anything down "for the record," be it a letter to the love of your life, a note quickly dashed off to your best friend, or even a catty remark about your teacher to be passed among your classmates, bearing the unmistakable stamp of your penmanship.

The same rule might well apply to the results of today's leaps in information technology—e-mail, chat rooms, web sites and blogs. The last is a term I have only recently come across, referring to personal sites and on-line "diaries" that ordinary people (or at least those with access to the Web) can maintain to keep in touch with their friends or to keep friends abreast of their lives, as well as to broadcast one's presence in the universe.

But aren't letters, notes, e-mail and blogs precisely meant to be read only by the people to whom you send them? Not necessarily. Anything put down in writing can be read by anyone, and often, the more secret and sensitive the contents, the better are the chances that they'll be read by the wrong people. Love letters and diary entries (the written kinds) can be read by your own parents or the family and friends of your addressee. Notes, written in jest and tongue-in-cheek, can be read by strangers out of context and result in hurt feelings, law suits or disciplinary action.

* * *

OBJECT lessons on the perils of heedless correspondence over the Net abound. Early in the years of e-mail's burgeoning popularity, a male college student on an American campus was sued for libel after he named one of his female classmates as the object of a sexual fantasy. More recently, writers of blogs have gotten into trouble for airing their supposedly private thoughts on the very public medium of the Internet. An employee in the US was fired after her co-workers and superiors complained about her observations of them in her blog.

What many don't seem to realize, blog creators particularly, is that once something is sent over the Internet, that is tantamount to publication or broadcast, and thus the author of the offending piece may be sued for libel.

So even if your masterpiece is meant for the eyes of only a single individual or your circle of friends, take care and take steps to protect yourself. In the first place, do you know everything about the person you're writing to? The hottie you met in a chat room may very well be a pimply 14-year-old who makes a hobby of writing to lonely women so he and his friends could laugh over your fervid declarations of love and lust. And as law enforcers and TV movies have shown us, young people corresponding with a sympathetic friend on the Internet could very well be exposing themselves to pedophiles and sex offenders.

Also, not all your thoughts, experiences and fantasies are deserving of venting. If you think you would be embarrassed by something the next day, then don't put it down in writing. Better to have a face-to-face conversation or better yet, preserve it for posterity in your memory.

* * *

AS A COLUMNIST, I have been guilty of using blind items, some of which I have come to regret, and others easily explained by the sensitivity of the matter and the need to protect sources.

The trouble with blind items—that is, reporting on real people without using their real names, but dropping enough hints so that people "in the know" can guess who they are—is that they make you careless, inviting you to run fast and loose with the facts because anyway you're working under cover of anonymity.

The other trouble with blind items, of course, is that they're great fun! Which explains their enduring popularity, and the risks their authors take to sweeten the pot.

If you love blind items, then surely you've already got a copy of "When Chic Hits the Fan," former magazine editor and publisher Kitty Go's exposé of life on the "sosy" track, the increasingly narrow and suffocating strata of Philippine society peopled by, to use Go's terms, "SC Colas and Alpinistas," as well as the *artistas, peryodistas* and *Kastilas* who happen to stray into this territory.

While much of the fun in reading this volume consists of gathering all the hints that she drops and coming up with a plausible identity (which is not that easy, as she sometimes creates composite personalities and bends genders), it's also quite interesting what her writings tell about Kitty Go herself.

* * *

SHE presents herself as a brave truth-telling journalist who's not afraid to burst people's pretensions and sees through their obsession with projecting false images. But the book is peppered with so many references to designer labels and fashion crimes that it seems Kitty shares more than just drinks with the social butterflies that she once covered.

The best social service that this cleverly titled book performs is that it makes us ordinary working stiffs grateful and glad that we have never belonged to the "sosy" set, nor have we ever aspired to be counted among them. From all that Go dishes, it seems every day spent within these rarefied confines is an exercise in stress and self-destruction.

Still, if all you're looking for is a rip-roaring good time and the chance to laugh at our social "betters," then go ahead and let the chic hit the fan.

Food as culture

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

TWO people you would be lucky to have as dining companions are Dez Bautista of Bulacan and Claude Tayag of Pampanga. Both are knowledgeable not only about local cuisine but also the culinary history behind them. If you find similarities in their dishes, it is also because, according to Claude, in the early days Bulacan was not a separate province but was encompassed by Pampanga. Even today, San Miguel de Mayumo, where you find all the wonderful *kakanin*, is part of Pampanga and the very word "*mayumo*" means sweet in Kapampagan.

At the press launch of "Pigin: A Heritage of Cuisine" at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental, which is part of this May's heritage festival activities in conjunction with Filipino Heritage Festival Inc., Dez (a wonderful raconteur) told us that the most famous menu in Philippine history which, of course, was served in Malolos at the inaugural of the First Republic, was actually composed of Bulacan fiesta dishes but with their names Frenchified. This was done to show the Europeans we were "civilized," courtesy of Pedro Paterno. (Excuse me? Good thing I wasn't there when it was being planned, or I would have had a thing or two to say about that.)

But anyway, the five-day lunch buffet (May 23-27) that will be served at the Captain's Bar with the support of Mila Enriquez, the country's foremost food historian and co-author of the book, "Bulakeña," will feature a culinary theme daily to satisfy not only your hunger pangs but your knowledge of history. You can always pretend you're at the Barasoain Church but with air-conditioning! The menu features Banquete de la Republika consisting of Holland salmon, chicken giblet a la Tagalle (read *adobo*), fillet of fish a la Chateaubriand and lamb chops a la papillote with potatoes.

Mesa de Hacienda dates back to the time when the port of Manila opened its wharf to foreign trade after the Galleon Trade ended. This apparently is when we went from *paksiw* to truffles and discovered the joys of cholesterol. Dez and Mila interpret this as oysters *kilawin*, sizzling *usa*, *itik bukid, tinanglad na manok*, among others. You may enjoy other gastronomic offerings, fruits of Dez's imagination, such as Magellan's first taste encounter with Cebuano cuisine prepared by Rajah Humabon's imaginary kitchen that might have included oysters *kilawin sa gata, tangigue sinigang sa mangga* and *daing na lapu-lapu*, which should have been given another name since had the gentleman been smoked, Magellan's problems would have been over.

There's also "A Filipino Table in Paris" to give you an idea of what the Luna brothers, Jose Rizal, the Pardo de Taveras and Felix Hidalgo may have been eating or the "Mesa de Lipa" called "Pasalamat sa Kape" in reference to the wealth enjoyed by the Lipeños during the heyday of the coffee boom in Batangas. The gustatory feast will include prawns in champagne, *sopa de la reina, pastel de pichon, lengua Sevillana* and many other delights.

Dez, of course, had us in stitches with his Tagalog grammar lessons. There we were in the Fontaine Room of the Mandarin, which had been decorated so elegantly with attendants clad in Maria Clara, when Dez explained that the tester beds in days-gone-by had scenes of clouds and saints painted on the canopy, which was why it was called "*langit-langitan.*" You opened your eyes and thought you had died or what? Anyway, I commented it was a departure from mirrors, which in turn prompted Mike Gomez of Cook Magazine to ask how many motels I had been to. Which, if you think about it, may be a fair observation, but I had to answer: "Why did it have to be a motel?" That only got me into more trouble.

The other expression that had us in hysterics is the hilarious image evoked by the Tagalog phrase for gossip, which is "*ut-utin dila,*" meaning literally to suck tongue, which is kind of erotic and probably deliberately replaced by *chismis*. Dez says though that it shows how close the relationship was (I can imagine), and there's still another expression which I forget now but it has to do with sharing combs. Seeing as how prevalent lice were you really would have had to be close to someone to risk it. Too bad Pilipino grammar lessons in school didn't include all these entertaining asides, but then neither did our history lessons refer to any of the skeletons in closets that made the reading of history much more fun later on.

Hopefully Dez will be around when you drop by the Mandarin, but during the five-day feast, Bulakeña Luz Ocampo will demonstrate the vanishing art of making pastille wrappers. As background, there will be a choir from Bulacan to render *kundimans* that will take you back to a kinder time. Actually, Filipino Heritage Festival is co-sponsoring with the municipality of Hagonoy a Balagtasan in the courtyard of the Shrine of St. Anne's, with the participation of school children.

I don't know that we can win against globalization and the homogenization of culture, but it's worth a try, don't you think?

Death of uncertainty

MY father left when I was seven. Like so many others before him, he went to America in pursuit of better opportunities. An architect by profession, he found a high-paying job in a reputable firm in the East Coast.

His good luck ran out after a couple of years. The firm he was working in unexpectedly folded up. My father lost his employment and had a difficult time finding another white-collar job.

YOUNG BLOOD

Nice-Nice

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

For us that meant no more balikbayan boxes filled with candies and toys every three months. The greeting cards, with $20 bills tucked in, also stopped coming. The phone conversations became hurried.

My pubescent mind could barely comprehend what was happening. I knew something was amiss. Mama would cry frequently and I could hardly talk to Papa. Before long, I was skipping classes because we didn't have enough money for my *baon*. My father, who wanted to give us the best education, had sent us to an exclusive school in Makati. Going there from Quezon City, where we lived, cost a couple of hundred pesos every day.

It was tough, but we weren't about to give up. Mama did all she could to make both ends meet. Often, this meant borrowing money from her parents or some friends. When they would refuse her, I was tasked to do the "negotiating." I became an expert at sweet-talking relatives so we could have some cash for our meals and school expenses.

When I was 13, my father completely disappeared. We could not reach him by phone or mail. Our letters were returned unopened. My father's mom and his siblings claimed they didn't know his whereabouts.

It was the most agonizing time of our lives. We had depended on Papa for everything. We were afraid we had lost him forever. What if he was dead and we couldn't find his body? The thought pushed us to the brink of insanity.

Soon our grief turned to anger. Well-meaning friends tried to track him down. But while nobody succeeded in locating him, everyone was convinced he was alive. Some said he must be living with another woman.

Whatever the real score, the fact was that my father was gone. Mama was all that we had left. And we were all that she had.

My mother had given up a flourishing career after she got married. It was a difficult decision and she made it for my father's sake. When Papa dropped out of sight, she bravely re-entered the workforce. But because she had been out of the loop for almost 20 years, she landed a job that was way below her previous position. Still, she managed to get us through our exclusive school and sent us to prestigious universities.

My siblings and I had our own ways of coping. Our brother mostly kept to himself. How hard it must have been for him to deal with adolescence and manhood by himself, in a household where three domineering women lived.

My younger sister had only some vague recollections of my father; she was just two when he left. Still, she often asked about him until she was old enough to realize that he was not coming home. When she was in fifth grade, her teacher humiliated her because her tuition was not fully paid. She did not want to attend classes again. Lola and I begged her to go back for a week until she relented. Since then, she has become adept at concealing her emotions, but I know her longing for our father never ceased.

I had my own issues to deal with while growing up father-less. While friends turned to cigs and booze to forget domestic problems, rebelling was not an option for me. I only had one motivation: I wanted to be a daughter my Papa would be proud of. I wanted to show him what I could be in spite of his absence. I wanted to make sure he regretted giving us up for his American dream.

When I started working and began traveling, I thought of saving enough money to go to the US. I was convinced that sooner or later, one of us should search for Papa. He had been away for so long, we were beginning to doubt if he really existed. Or if we were ever a part of a real (read: conventional) family.

One night early this year, I was having nightmares and could hardly breathe. I woke up tired and crying the next morning. I couldn't put a finger on what was bothering me. I thought it was just stress from work.

That night I found out that Papa was back in Manila and that he wanted to talk to me. I was too shocked to move. Then the tears started flowing. My initial instinct was to drop everything I was doing and run to wherever he was.

But that only lasted a few seconds. Soon, I was mad all over again. How dared he come back without informing us in advance? Did he think we were spending all our lives just waiting for him and that when he came back we would welcome him back?

No, I told my uncle, I would not meet him that night. I was busy. But a voice inside me was screaming: Tell your father you have a life from which he is excluded! If he wants to talk, he should wait until I can find the time!

It had been so long, I could hardly remember anything about Papa. The one thing I remembered though was that he never cried, not even when his own father died. The last thing I wanted was for him to see me in tears. So I prepared myself for our meeting by secretly crying for several nights. I was hoping that when we finally meet I would be drained of emotions.

Oddly enough I did not feel any bitterness toward him. Despite our separation, our lives actually did not turn out so badly. Sure, it was difficult for us, but the challenges only toughened our character. Though far from perfect, my mom, my siblings and I are actually all right (if I may say so myself).

After a week, I was ready for our meeting. But despite all my "preparations," I broke down upon seeing the face I had longed to see for years. When we hugged, I felt the walls of estrangement crumble. I felt at home in his embrace.

We talked for hours. He said he never meant to keep us in the dark. He had gotten entangled in a web of misfortune, especially when his papers expired. He took on odd jobs and put up small businesses that folded up quickly. He did not want to come home or talk to us because he had nothing. He felt it was best not to burden us with his woes.

He had taken another wife, he said. And when his business became stable just a few years back, he started to make plans about coming back.

I didn't know if he was just making things up, but I believed his every word. What I couldn't believe was seeing him cry as we talked. And I was crying, too. Together after 19 years, we both must have been weeping for the death of uncertainty.

Nice-Nice, 26, is a documentary producer and writer. Her father flew back to the United States last March, with the promise to keep in touch.

Brown and smelly water from Maynilad

I AM writing this letter to call the attention of the officials of Maynilad; I really hope they take notice. And I hope that they still have a sense of social responsibility to act on our situation here in our district. (In fact, we are paying for the service they're supposed to provide). We have been getting unclean water supply and this is not a recent occurrence. In the past it had oily substance and smelled like canal water, but now it has gotten worse because the water has turned brown. Last year, right after the elections, Maynilad made some road diggings along Zamora Street, supposedly to improve the pipes and water supply as their announcements made us believe. Just last April, they started road diggings again, and we suffered the noise and traffic, believing (again) that this road disturbance would result into something good. But until now our families are still in danger of getting sick because of the kind of water supply we continue to get.

When we began paying for our water supply and related services to Maynilad a few years back, our bill was only P90. Now we are paying around P400; this would have been bearable if we were getting what we are paying for—clean water. We are not even complaining when they cut the supply because we know this usually happens in summer; we are just expecting—and rightly so—that when we get the supply due us, it is clean.

We know that we are at the mercy of Maynilad because our district is part of its area coverage, and we do not have the liberty to choose our provider/supplier (that's what happens when there is monopoly in basic services). But if Maynilad's officials have some conscience left, we appeal to them: Please give us clean water! Pardon my frustration here, but try getting murky and smelly water. But on second thought, all hope is not lost. Consumers have the right to make Maynilad accountable for bad service!

—Clarissa V. Militante,
Zamora, Pandacan

Comelec cleaning up voters' list

IN REFERENCE to Conrado de Quiros' article, titled "Déjà vu, of sorts" (PDI, 4/19/05), we would like to clarify some issues raised in that column with respect to the Commission on Elections.

The Comelec is not tolerating the inclusion of fraudulent names and the dead in the list of registered voters. It has long been fighting this problem. The present Comelec administration, under the leadership of Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr., has taken a significant step in addressing this problem by cleansing and updating all the voters' lists in the country through the Voter's Validation System which is an integral part of the Comelec Modernization Program. The docketing of 5,958 cases of known double/multiple registrants with the Law Department last Apr. 25 shows the determination of the Comelec to eradicate this problem.

—MILAGROS I. DESAMITO,
Director IV, Education and Information Department,
Commission on Elections,
Intramuros, Manila

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

No immediate increase in SSS contributions

THIS is in reference to a news item headlined "SSS halts decline of pension fund" (PDI, 4/06/05) by Doris Dumlao and Michelle Remo.

According to the report, "An SSS official said that with the pressure lifted, the pension firm need not implement a hike in contributions."

The statement is without basis. The Social Security System has not abandoned its call for a contribution rate increase. Although recent figures show an improvement in the actuarial soundness of the SSS as a result of the one percentage point hike in members' contribution that the SSS implemented in 2003, it is still not enough to extend the life of the fund to the ideal 50 to 65 years.

In fact, one of the reforms we have proposed in Congress is the adoption of specific actuarial standards that will align benefits with contributions. These standards will define minimum fund life or an adequate level of funding and will be based on investment benchmarks. It will also set the time when benefits may be enhanced and when contribution rates must be raised.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

THE SECOND paragraph of the story should have read: "An SSS official said that with the pressure lifted, the pension firm need not immediately implement a hike in contributions." In the rush to beat the deadline, the underscored word was inadvertently left out of the paragraph. We regret the accidental omission of the word that changed the complexion of the story.

—ERIC A. OLONA, Desk editor,
Business Section

Knights of Rizal should set example of unity, solidarity and reconciliation

I WOULD like to make this appeal to all my fellow Knights of Rizal through the INQUIRER.

Let us give Dr. Jose P. Rizal, our national hero, a very meaningful present on his 144th birth anniversary. Let it be the gift of unity, solidarity and reconciliation in the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

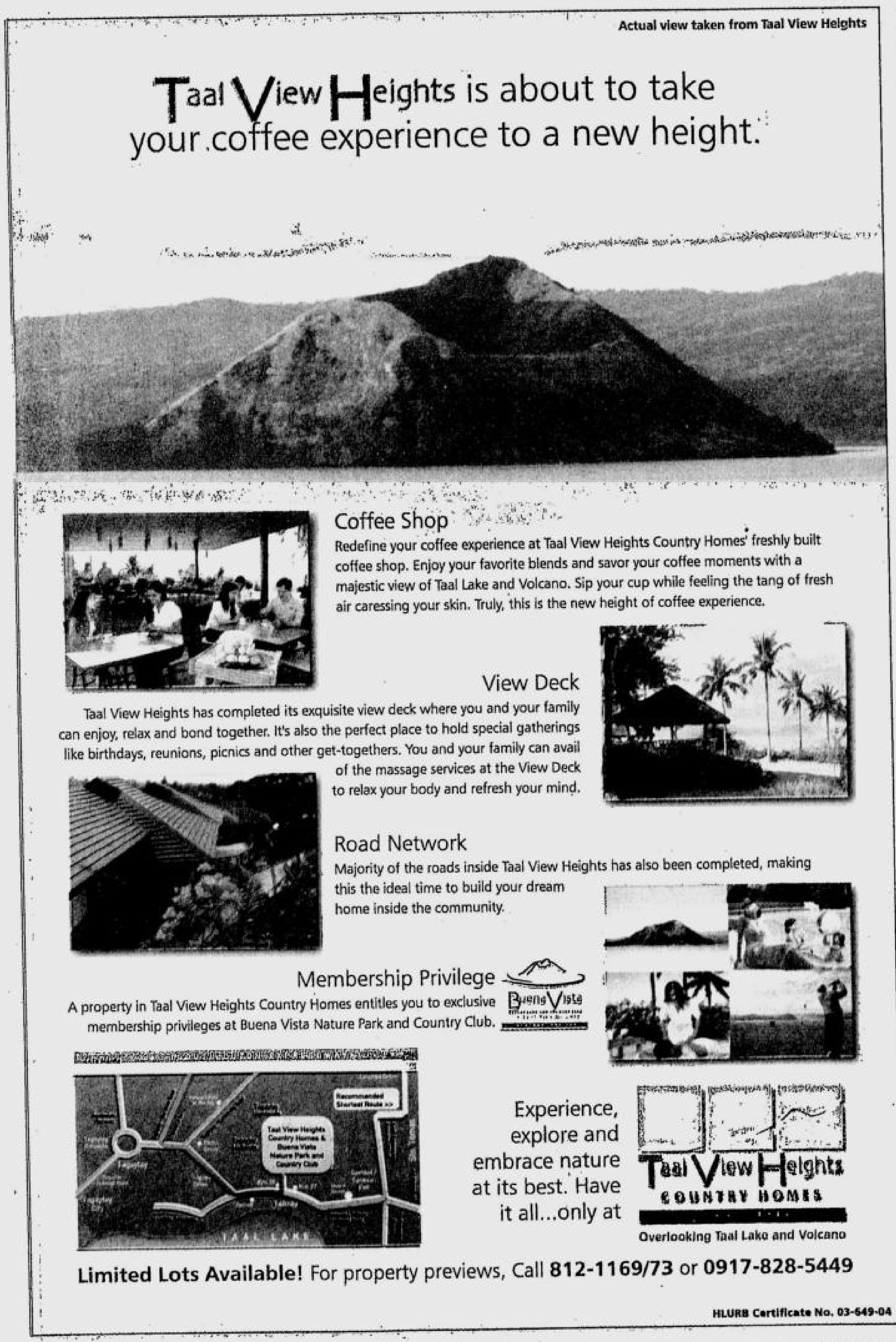
I believe that Rizal is an excellent model and best exemplar of the aforecited virtues. Although, he had a firm and impatient character, still I would not consider him an "OC" or an obsessive-compulsive person, as others see him.

During the Propaganda Movement, some members of the Filipino community in Europe would quarrel on problems and issues of leadership, like the editorship in the La Solidaridad, and even in courtship. Rizal sacrificed his personal interests and gave way to others for the sake of esprit de corps among his fellow Filipinos abroad.

At this time, we need to emulate him. As Knights of Rizal, let us set aside our differences and biases for the sake of our country, so that our present bickering politicians will follow.

I, therefore, call on the hierarchy of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, particularly our Grand Knights, to organize an ad hoc committee to serve as an ad interim supreme council until such time that an election is ready for a new supreme council. If this proposal is not possible, then Congress can repeal RA 646.

—DR. LUISITO S. SAN VALENTIN,
PLM,
Chapter Commander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For Arroyo administration, OFW are export commodities

REALITY belies Labor Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Cortazar's assertion that the Arroyo administration reportedly commits itself to "promote and protect" overseas Filipino workers' interest. (PDI, 4/21/05)

Migrante International maintains that for this administration, particularly for Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, OFWs are commodities to be exported—at whatever cost to their human dignity.

This is why in the face of the degrading and discriminatory crackdowns on undocumented migrants in Japan, the United States, Malaysia and other countries, the only thing top RP officials often meekly utter is for OFWs to "come home."

Where is the protest about the human rights violations committed against Filipino migrants?

For OFWs, it is clear that Japan's continuing "criminalization" and blacklisting of undocumented migrants have more to do with Japan's baseless assumption that foreign workers are guilty of committing crimes than with that country's concern for trafficking.

This assumption that migrants are likely criminals is akin to the United States' premise that undocumented workers are more likely to be "terrorists," and thus they deserve to be rounded up, interrogated and deported as such (complete with handcuffs); or in Malaysia's case, to be imprisoned in overcrowded detention camps and whipped like animals.

There are international standards of human and migrants' rights (e.g., UN Convention on the Rights of Migrants and their Families) that the Arroyo administration can assert if it truly has the will to challenge the anti-migrant laws of host countries.

That it does not underlines how this administration and Secretary Sto. Tomas are more concerned about promoting and protecting its "labor export policy" than OFW rights.

Thus, we witness how President Macapagal-Arroyo is bent on exporting one million workers overseas a year. Thus, we hear of Sto. Tomas' regard of Filipino workers as commodities or capital for the global market.

—MAITA SANTIAGO,
secretary general,
Migrante International,
49 Mayaman cor. Matahimik Sts.,
UP Village, Quezon City

A scary proposition, worrisome precedent

JUSTICE Reynato Puno's call, seconded by Wilson Fortaleza (PDI, 4/28/05) to stop payment of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant loans is a scary proposition which I feel should never have been made in the first place. Granting that the BNPP is the biggest single example of greed and corruption, this does not take away the fact that the loans were taken legitimately. If later, parts of the loans were given away as kickbacks, the lender should not be punished with nonpayment of the loan.

I am not a lawyer, but I believe that to follow Justice Puno's call would set a worrisome precedent that could scare off banks and other creditors. Then most, if not all, our loans on government projects should not be paid by the government. Then the contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways should not be paid. (It is of common knowledge that contractors bribe DPWH officials.)

While I agree that the Philippines is in heavy debt because of the sins of the past, I maintain that the Philippines must honor all its debts, unless our creditors grant us amnesty or agree to more lenient terms. The government's payment of the loan is not hypocrisy, it is simply fulfilling a contractual duty.

With her policy of "honor all debts," President Aquino, during her term, showed the world that the Philippines as a nation does not run away from its responsibilities.

The loan was legitimate (even if Marcos was the one who made it), the use of loan was not. We shouldn't confuse one with the other.

—RAMON SIYTANGCO,
rmsiytangco@shaw.ca

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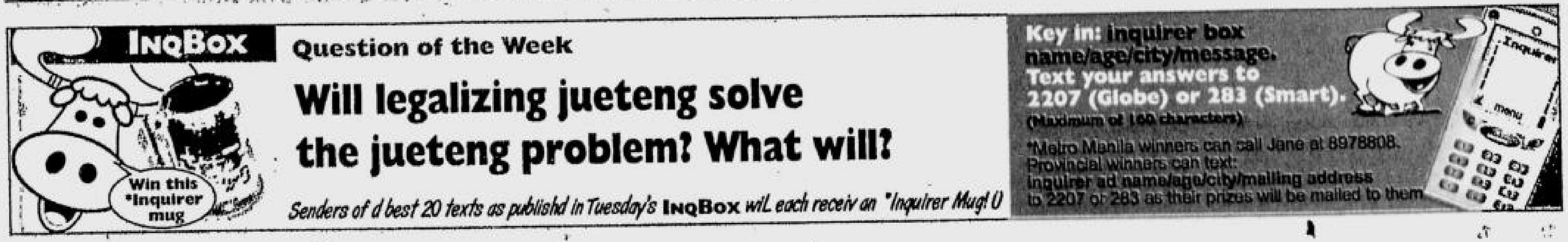

INQBOX Question of the Week

Will legalizing jueteng solve the jueteng problem? What will?

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Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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'Jueteng' suspect to snub Senate

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A suspected "jueteng" operator in Pampanga, the province described by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as the "Vatican of jueteng," said he was not testifying in the Senate's investigation into the new protectors of the illegal numbers game.

Melchor "Ngongo" Caluag said contrary to reports (not in the INQUIRER), he has not volunteered or agreed to cooperate as a witness.

Caluag said he has not received an invitation from any senator or from Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, chair of the Senate committee on games and amusements and former Pampanga governor, to appear in the inquiry.

Should he receive an invitation, he said he would decline it, explaining he was not anymore involved in illegal gambling.

Caluag, 28, is the barangay captain of Dolores, this city's prime commercial district.

Police sources in Camp Olivas said Caluag, one of the *revisadores* (number reviewers) of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong' Pineda, ventured into the game in this city and other Pampanga towns when Pineda lost his grip on jueteng operations in Central Luzon.

Pineda's control over jueteng operations waned when his supposed patron, former President Joseph Estrada, was ousted in January 2001 on the heels of the Juetengate scandal.

Pineda, according to police sources, had reclaimed some of his jueteng territories in Central and Northern Luzon after the May 2004 elections, easing out Caluag or allowing small operators to exist through franchises at a minimum of P1 million monthly. Close relatives of Pineda denied the reports.

In March, however, there were still tension between Pineda and Caluag, indicated by the slay attempts on Caluag and his driver. The Pinedas have also denied any hand in the slay try on Caluag.

Caluag said he preferred leading a quiet life. He said he is engaged now in the distribution of grocery items.

But a police memorandum on May 5 showed he was still on the watch list. The other names on the list were Pineda, Mario "Marga" Garcia and Otto Balboa in Pampanga; Jimmy Lacsamana in Tarlac; and Abet Viceo in Bulacan.

Other names on the list were Mark Halili, Vivian Gutierrez, a certain Mr. Rafing, a certain Luding, Fernando "Paris" Casupanan and Nene Roxas.

For the second week since May 2, the game continued to be suspended throughout Pampanga and five other Central Luzon provinces, according to Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, regional police director. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

THE GOOD out of the bad is this vibrant six-month-baby named Jodessa Caramto who survived the crash of bus 198 last Wednesday. Her mother, Juliet, was still under observation but her aunt, Salome said the child has been given a clean bill of health. EV ESPIRITU

Firm defies order to ground units after crash

BAGUIO CITY—The Byron Bus lines continued operations on Friday, defying an order from the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board on Thursday that grounded its fleet for a month.

The order came after 29 passengers of a Byron bus were killed when the vehicle turned turtle and slammed into a roadside boulder along the Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, on Wednesday. The bus, with body No. 198, was carrying 44 people, including its driver and conductor.

Reports said the LTFRB ordered the Byron management to present its 40 units for government inspection.

Angelito Yalung, Byron operations officer, said their buses continue to ply their regular routes to Pangasinan via Marcos Highway two days after the accident involving one of its buses.

"We have not been served a formal resolution ordering us to suspend operations, so we are not breaking any laws. We only saw the report on television, but the same broadcasts have been attacking us for ignoring our passengers when it is not even true," Yalung told the INQUIRER in a call from their main office in Pangasinan.

"So why should we believe the reports? We need to receive a formal directive before we can act," Yalung said in Filipino.

Tina Gapasin, Byron dispatcher in Baguio, said trips to Dagupan and Alaminos cities continue. On Thursday when the LTFRB reportedly issued the suspension, Gapasin said they managed to dispatch 14 buses to Pangasinan.

Before the accident, she said, the firm operated at least 20 trips daily from Baguio.

Yalung said the firm's lawyers were planning to seek a court order to stop LTFRB from freezing their operations.

"One bus was involved in this tragedy, so why should the rest of our operations suffer? Our employees need to eat, and our customers need to travel. We will cooperate if the government wants to test each unit, but it should not stop our employees from working," he said.

Yalung said Byron has independently concluded that no mechanical failure occurred when the bus driver, Bernardo Fernando, who also died in the crash, tried to steer the vehicle as it sped down the highway's section in Barangay Badiwan, Tuba.

"There is no evidence that the vehicle crashed due loose brakes," he said. *Vincent Cabreza with reports from Marie Joyce Godio, Cherry Ann Palaganas and Hannah Calub, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Survivors recount horror in speeding bus

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—I thought we were flying.

This was how 30-year-old Cristina Ramos described her trip aboard the Byron Bus that crashed in a roadside boulder along Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, on Wednesday.

"The bus was cruising at high speed, it scared us. When someone yelled that the bus had no brakes, we cried. We were crying because we felt so helpless," said Ramos, who was seated at the rear row of the bus.

Ramos went to Baguio on Wednesday morning to buy blankets, *ukay-ukay* (second hand or used) clothes, mosquito nets and peanut brittle, which she planned to resell in her hometown of Mangaldan, Pangasinan, two hours away from Baguio.

Her brother-in-law's wife, Carla de Guzman, went with her to help her carry the goods.

The two women were lugging all their purchases when they rode the bus, with body No. 198, at about 11 a.m.

A few minutes after the bus left the terminal on Governor Pack Road here, they heard other passengers pleading to the driver to slow down.

"Don't panic, don't panic," Ramos quoted bus driver Bernardo Fernando as yelling.

She said Dindo Dulay, the bus conductor, looked tense. Dulay was busy helping Fernando tinker with the brake pedal as Fernando steered the bus away from a ravine.

Fernando and Dulay were among the 29 fatalities in the accident.

Ramos, a mother of five, and De Guzman said they hugged each other tightly, closed their eyes and prayed when they sensed that something was wrong.

"I prayed (for God) to give me chance to see my children again. No one would look after them when I'm gone," Ramos told the INQUIRER after she underwent surgery at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center to correct her dislocated shoulder.

De Guzman, who could hardly talk after suffering from head and body injuries, said she was crying because she thought the bus would fall into a ravine along Marcos Highway.

"I'm happy that I was given another chance to live," she said, as tears rolled down her bruised cheeks.

When the bus was about to crash into the boulder in Barangay Badiwan, De Guzman and 44 other passengers screamed. No one managed to jump out of the bus, said Ramos, whose right eye is shut from a bruise covering half her face.

"Everything happened in an instant. The bus suddenly crashed into the boulder. Maybe the impact threw us out of the bus. When I woke up, someone was already stitching my wounds shut," Ramos said.

She and De Guzman were unconscious when rescuers took them to the BGHMC on Wednesday.

When Ramos woke up, she asked the INQUIRER to help her recover her things, which included her handbag that contained P2,000 cash and a cellular phone. *With reports from Vincent Cabreza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Execs alarmed as Cebu water sources dry up…

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Officials of the firm supplying water here has warned of water scarcity as months of dry spell have started to dry up the ground water sources of the Metro Cebu Water District.

MCWD spokesperson Terry Andaya said it is common for the surface water to dry up quickly during the summer months but not ground water sources.

She said this is the first time that she experienced this in her nearly 21 years in the MCWD, adding that the El Niño phenomenon being experienced now is worse than what occurred in 1997.

The mountain barangays of Cebu City, which do not depend on MCWD for their water supply, also have to be supplied with water through city-owned water tankers because their ground water sources have also dried up.

Ernie Delco, MCWD assistant general manager for operations, said they have to temporarily shut down at least 10 wells because of the falling level of ground water sources since April. MCWD has a total of 103 wells in Metro Cebu.

Delco said they could still supply water to all their concessionaires except those in elevated areas that could only have access to water at night.

Delco said the Jaclopan Diversion Weir in Talisay City was the most affected because only six of their 10 wells there could stay in operation. The Jaclopan Diversion Weir was supposed to produce 25,000 cubic meters but it is now only capable of producing 12,000 cubic meters.

He said the water level of ground water sources in Jaclopan had gone down by a meter.

The Buhisan Dam, the surface water source of MCWD, has also been producing 1,000 cubic meters, less than the usual 8,000 to 9,000 cubic meters because of the drought.

MCWD is serving a total of 101,000 concessionaires spread in the four cities of Cebu, Talisay, Mandaue and Lapulapu and the northern towns of Cordova, Compostela, Liloan and Consolacion.

The lack of water in the mountain villages has forced residents to stop taking daily baths and instead prioritize their water supply for cooking and drinking, according to Sudlon Uno Barangay Captain Dante Tabucal.

He said the water brought in by the city government was not enough, as the ration would only come in once a week.

Cebu City Councilor Edwin Jagmoc, who chairs the committee on public services, said he was aware that the water supply was inadequate but there was nothing officials could do since the city only has four water tankers servicing 24 mountain barangays.

. .Panic button pushed in Benguet on water

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—This province's water resources are slowly being depleted and the provincial government has started pushing the panic button for a well-drawn environmental plan to protect its remaining watersheds.

Provincial officials have in fact asked President Macapagal-Arroyo's assistance to provide P1 million for each of the province's 13 towns in a bid to safeguard existing aquifers and virgin forests.

Gov. Borromeo Melchor said he was surprised over findings that some watersheds in the province were claimed to be parts of ancestral lands or covered by tax declarations of private individuals.

In a media forum here on Tuesday, Melchor underscored the need to make water supply and watershed maintenance as priority agenda of Benguet, an agricultural province.

"The water problem may not appear to be serious now but its adverse effects could later on impact on the farmers' lives within the next few years," he said.

The province is the country's top producer of semi-temperate vegetables like potato, cabbage, carrot and broccoli.

What is alarming, Melchor said, is that 120 of the province's 140 villages are having problems with their domestic water supply aside from having no integrated plan on water resource or watershed management.

"It is sad to note that even some district hospitals, schools and municipal buildings do not have water," Melchor said.

As an immediate measure, he said the provincial development council has approved the release of P100,000 for each of the province's 140 barangays and appropriated between P200,000 and P500,000 for selected water drilling and nursery projects in areas that were identified as potential water reservoirs.

"But our funds cannot sustain a long term development program for these deep wells and watersheds. That's why we are asking the national government, through the President, to help us," Melchor said.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Land Reform must lead the protection of the province's watersheds by first identifying their exact location.

The maps to be prepared by these agencies will be used to delineate the boundaries of the watersheds so they can be seriously guarded from damage and private interests, he said.

Melchor said the provincial government is willing to go to court to redeem portions of watersheds that have been claimed by speculators and private claimants. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bohol execs assail moves to destabilize gov't

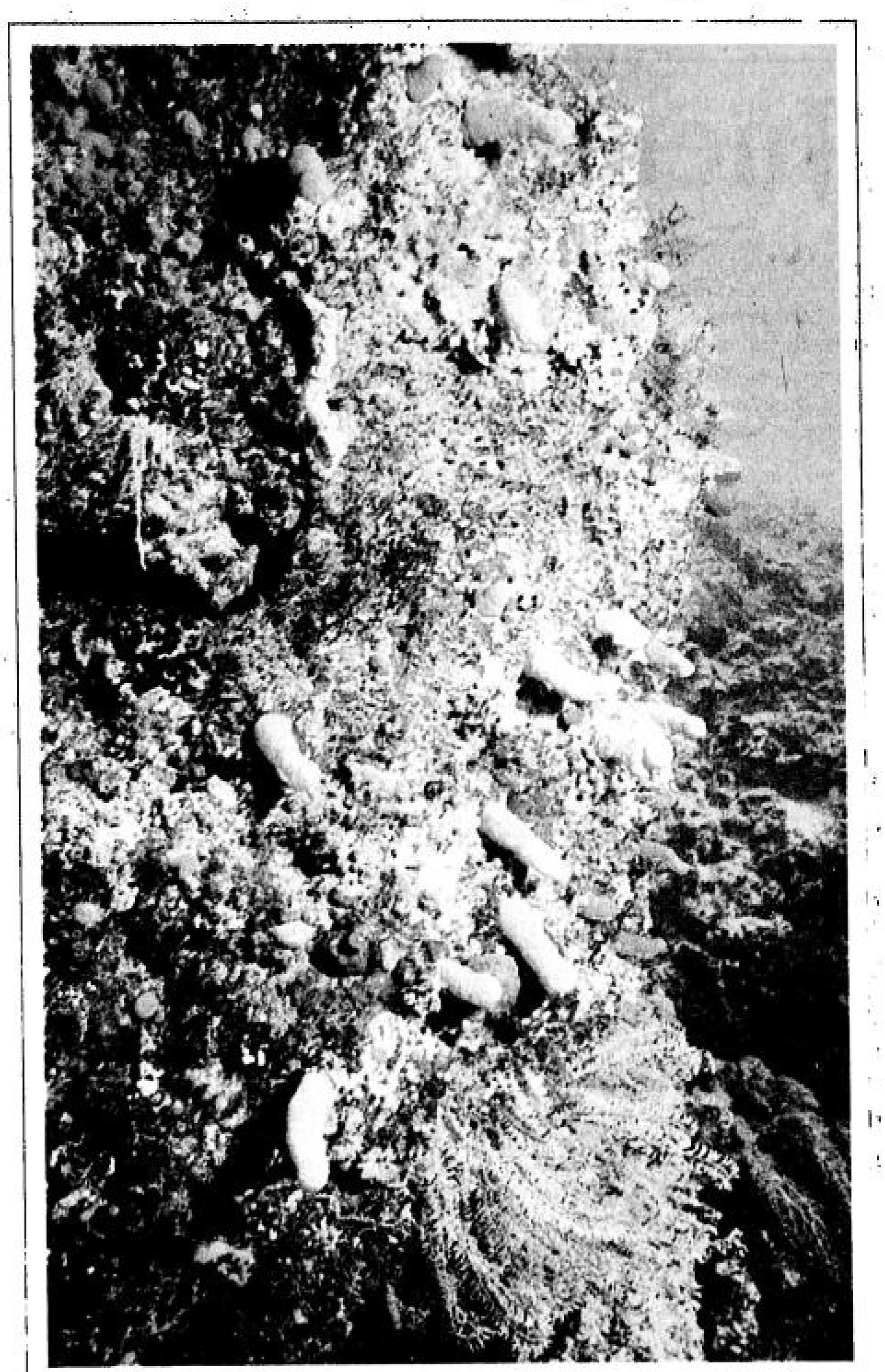
BOHOL Gov. Erico Aumentado yesterday assailed attempts made by a group of retired military generals and a shadowy organization called Kasama for enticing local executives to turn against duly constituted authorities through the establishment of a revolutionary transition government.

In a press statement, Aumentado said in a resolution adopted by the Bohol Peace and Order Council, Boholanos also denounced the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya (KME), another antigovernment group, for fomenting sedition against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Aumentado, head of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, described the groups' actions as anti-people and anti-Constitution.

Amid these destabilization efforts, Aumentado pledged the Boholanos' unconditional support behind the President and urged the people to remain calm.

"We condemn all destabilization moves to bring down the administration of Ms Arroyo outside the manner provided by the Constitution," Aumentado, also the president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, said.



RARE CREATURES
Unusual looking sponges or *ascidians* (sea squirts) decorate the underwater Jigdup Wall in Camiguin Island. The area is rich in marine biodiversity. YVETTE LEE

Slain Legazpi radioman's widow seeks SC help to pin down mayor

LEGAZPI CITY—Still hoping to find justice for her husband, slain radioman Rowell Endrinal's widow, Marina, has appealed to Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide to conduct an inquiry on the controversial decision of Judge Vladimir B. Brusola to clear Jovellar Mayor Jose Arcangel of the murder.

Brusola is the presiding judge of the regional trial court Branch 6 of the 5th Judicial Region.

In a letter sent to Davide two days after the "non-appealable" May 10 decision, Endrinal pleaded to the Chief Justice to look into the matter and help her family find justice.

Endrinal's widow also stated in her letter that she has no lawyer and was counting on the support of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) headed by its chair, Dante Jimenez.

During an interview with the widow at the office of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, the widow said the judge focused his decision on some shells found in the area and not on her husband's testimony which Endrinal gave after he was attacked by Arcangel.

Jimenez said his group wanted lawyers to read Brusola's decision on the attempted murder case filed by Endrinal against Arcangel. His group planned to distribute copies of the decision to the Supreme Court justices and lawyers' groups.

Records of the case said Arcangel shot Endrinal in different parts of the body outside a hotel here at about 3 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2000 after a heated altercation that started inside the hotel's restaurant.

Endrinal survived the attack and later filed a case for attempted murder.

About two years later, while the case was in progress, the outspoken broadcaster was gunned down by two men who shot him five times near his residence in Barangay Oro Site here while he was about to report to his morning program at radio station dzRC on Feb. 11 last year.

In his decision, Brusola acquitted Arcangel for self-defense.

In a brief interview with Brusola after the promulgation, he said the verdict is non-appealable, saying "because that is what is written in the law books."

"If we cannot get justice in Bicol, we will seek it outside of the region, that's why we will distribute copies of the decision among legal personalities, for them to see for themselves the glaringly unjust decision of Judge Brusola," Jimenez said.

He claimed that the judge's decision was based on sketchy pieces of evidence and not on Endrinal's testimony.

He also added that they were not completely surprised by the decision of the court.

He even warned media men in Bicol not to expect justice from the courts there.

Meanwhile, Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano bucked proposals to enact "tougher libel laws" to stop the spate of killings of journalists, saying the move is tantamount to gagging the media and curtailment of press freedom.

Mariano's statement came after several lawmakers said "the murders of journalists could be due to Filipinos being sensitive to criticisms" and "the country's libel laws [being ineffective]."

"Instead of running after the killers of journalists, the proposal to enact tougher libel laws appears to be putting the blame on the victims," Mariano said in a statement. *Leo Martin B. Ganace and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ilocos media groups disown broadcaster

VIGAN CITY—Officials and members of eight media groups in Ilocos Sur said a critic of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who was shot and wounded on April 29 in Bantay town is not a member of any media organization in the province.

The groups said they issued the statement after reports identified Nestor Seguismundo, 39, former chair of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, as a media practitioner.

"We disclaim the involvement of any pseudo-media personalities who are using any of these legitimate media organizations for their self-interest," the statement said.

It was signed by 26 members and officials of the Ilocos Sur Capitol Press Corps, Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas-Ilocos Sur Chapter, Ilocos Sur Media Association, Philippine National Police Press Corps-Ilocos Sur Chapter, Gumil Filipinas-Ilocos Sur Chapter, Vigan City Press Corps, 503rd Brigade Army Press Corps and the Ilocos Sur Integrated Press.

Seguismundo, a former barangay captain of Boquig in Bantay town, was shot as he was alighting from his car in front of his house.

Seguismundo, as a blocktimer, started hosting a public affairs and commentary program in February in the local radio station dzXE, a known local opposition station.

Seguismundo, a former activist, ran twice for Bantay councilor but lost. He worked for the Department of Agrarian Reform in Bantay as a clerk and assumed the chairmanship of Sisa.

Sisa filed at least seven graft cases against Singson before the Ombudsman two years ago. Most of the cases were dismissed.

Last year, Seguismundo ran for a seat in the Ilocos Sur provincial board but lost. He ran under the ticket of former Board Member Efren Rafanan, also a staunch critic of Singson.

In Baguio City, Arthur Allad-iw, national vice chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), said Seguismundo still deserves justice, even if he is not considered a legitimate media practitioner. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau with reports from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Building child-friendly villages

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Borongan, Eastern Samar

THE TWO boys played unobtrusive games as their elders engaged in team-building exercises and discussed details of health plans for child-friendly barangays in their town.

Jude Michael Palce, 3, is the son of Natividad Palce, 46, a health worker from Barangay 5 of Balangkayan town. His playmate, John Mark Calzado, 5, is the grandson of Nenita Calzado, 46, a councilor from Barangay Guinpoliran of the same town.

The two women were among the 27 participants of the first Barangay Health Committee Training on Community Health Planning, held in Borongan, the capital town of Eastern Samar, in February. All came from Balangkayan, 25 km away, and all are members of barangay health committees.

The three-day training was conducted by three professors from the University of the Philippines-School of Health Sciences (UP-SHS) in Palo, Leyte.

"Bringing young children to a training like this is allowed by Plan," said Nenita Calzado in explaining the presence of her grandson and his playmate in the venue at a pension house. Plan is the shortened name of Plan Philippines, the country component of an international nongovernment organization that works with local partners toward child-friendly communities.

Plan International

Plan was founded in 1937 by John Langdon Davis and Eric Muggeridge as Foster Parents Plan for War Children. It aimed to provide food, clothing, shelter and education to the countless children victims of the Spanish Civil War.

When the war ended, the organization expanded its programs to other countries and became Foster Parents Plan International Inc., which later changed to Plan International, and now Plan.

The group currently operates in 45 developing countries in Africa, Asia, South and Central America, and the Caribbean. Its international headquarters is in the United Kingdom.

Funds come from sponsors in 17 developed nations—Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, UK and the United States.

Among the 12 program countries in Asia, Plan Philippines was established in 1961. Its operations started with informal settlers in Metro Manila and expanded to provinces in Southern and Northern Luzon, and the Central Visayas.

At present, it operates in nine provinces (Isabela, Pangasinan, Occidental Mindoro, Masbate, the Camotes Island in Cebu, Southern Leyte, Northern Samar, (Western) Samar, and Eastern Samar), 36 towns, and 428 barangays.

In Eastern Samar, Plan projects and activities are managed by the Eastern Samar Program Unit (ESPU) with office in Borongan. They are implemented in 62 barangays in the towns of Balangkayan, Llorente, Hernani, Salcedo and Oras.

Plan started its projects in Eastern Samar in February 2001. Rodel C. Bontuyan, program unit manager for the province, supervises 27 personnel, including technical officers for learning, health, water and environmental sanitation, and research program and development, and project officers for the different towns.

Minjel Naparate, a graduate of UP-SHS who is the ESPU technical officer for health, started out as project officer for one of the towns. Since his watch, two new barangay health centers had been constructed and another was renovated in some priority areas.

Planning for health

Deworming drugs, vaccines and vitamins have also been distributed and administered to children in the five towns. Some 150 kits have been distributed to barangay health workers after their refresher training.

Late last year, Naparate contacted his former teachers to design and implement a community health planning training for the barangay health committees in the towns that Plan covered. The contract was entered into by the ESPU and the Community Health Resource Foundation Inc. (CHRFI), a foundation based at the UP-SHS.

The first and second barangay trainings were conducted in February by Prof. Mae Florence D. Nierras, Evangeline C. Pasagui and Elvira L. Prejula. They conducted the lectures in the native Waray language, and even consulted old dictionaries to translate technical words and concepts into layman's terms.

"The greatest experience I have ever met (sic)," said Ronnie Borja, 55, of Barangay Caisawan, revealing his flash of insight right after a team-building activity.

Benefits

"If we had this type of planning input before, we would have had gone a long way with our projects in our barangay," said Romulo Elpedes, 54, a councilor from Barangay Cabay.

"Plan has assisted in the health of schoolchildren, including deworming through the local Rural Health Unit," said Chelyn Grace Azura, 33, a school nurse who participated in the first training.

"Plan has also donated books for our library, musical instruments for the school band, as well as sponsored several trainings for our teachers," she added.

Natividad Palce, Jude Michael's mother, said Plan had constructed school buildings and day-care centers, provided materials for the construction of toilets and water systems, and distributed bags and supplies to schoolchildren in their town.

Jude Michael and his playmate John Mark are not among the "sponsored" children in the province. They do not have direct Plan sponsors from abroad, but they enjoy such amenities as books and toys in the day-care centers.

What dreams foretell

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

TWO days before she was to be discharged from her fourth confinement at the hospital, 12-year-old Kristine Mae "Tata" Guillamas dreamed that the skies opened and she saw the beauty of the heavens.

Another dream of hers had Jesus Christ in blinding light sitting on a cement bench and taking her into His arms.

When a child's life is ebbing and her dreams are but portents of the inevitable that come to all, a mother can only take comfort in other people's prayers and concern for her precious child.

Tata's mother Jocelyn is at a loss for words to describe that overwhelming feeling of gratitude for the INQUIRER readers who gave financial and material help, as well as prayers for her sickly daughter, since the feature story, "Dying girl keeps hope alive for family" (INQUIRER Visayas, March 12, 2005) was published.

When she was 7 months old, Tata was diagnosed by Dr. Doris Mendoza, a pediatric cardiologist in Iloilo City, to have a cyanotic type of congenital heart disease known as Tetralogy of Fallot. The condition consists of four anomalies—the most important being a large ventricular septal defect or hole in the wall separating the right and left ventricles, and a markedly reduced blood flow to the lungs because of an obstruction in the pulmonary valve or artery.

Jocelyn and her husband Eduardo, a former fish broker who has yet to find another job, have learned to accept that Tata, the eighth of their 11 children, may have to "go" anytime as doctors have told them that her overworked and enlarged heart may stop beating without notice.

"The best we could do for Tata, if not to add years to her life, is to add life to her remaining years," said Dr. Mendoza, a professor of pediatrics at the West Visayas State University College of Medicine, who recommended a heart operation for Tata when she was still a baby.

Tata has been confined at the pediatric ward of West Visayas State University Hospital on April 1-8 and from April 28 to May 5 for various heart and lung problems related to Tetralogy of Fallot. The first time she was hospitalized was when she was 2 years old and on Jan. 15, 2005 for pneumonia and inability to walk.

A child's gratitude

Concerned readers donated money amounting to almost P100,000—half of which has already been spent on Tata's food, medications and hospitalization.

In what she thought was a callous world because of life's low blows, Jocelyn tells of the gratitude and joy her family felt upon receiving two sacks of rice from the local office of the National Food Authority, groceries and a half sack of rice from Makro's Manila office and a box of corned beef and meat loaf from Allied Bank.

Jocelyn's small notebook is filled with the cell phone numbers of 63 people who pledged help or simply offered prayers from places as diverse as Hong Kong, the United States and Saudi Arabia. More than 20 of these "texters" gave financial help to Jocelyn but they refused to be identified.

But it's the prayers from strangers that touch Jocelyn most.

"I leave her to God. I have accepted Tata's fate. God knows what to do," said Jocelyn in Hiligaynon on the night before her daughter was to be discharged from the hospital.

She doesn't know when they will be back again, or maybe never.

Tata, weighing less than 40 kilos, seems to be oblivious to her family's melancholy as she looks forward to going home to No. 30 Democracia St. in Jaro District and playing with the PlayStation that would take the place of the Brick game she holds on to whenever she is at the pediatric ward.

Though distraught over her daughter's condition in the previous months, Jocelyn now takes bittersweet comfort in what Tata's dreams foretell.

JOCELYN Guillamas may be contacted through cell phone No. 0919-8103979.—Ed.

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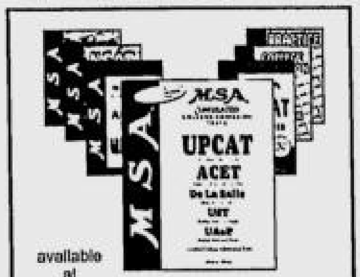

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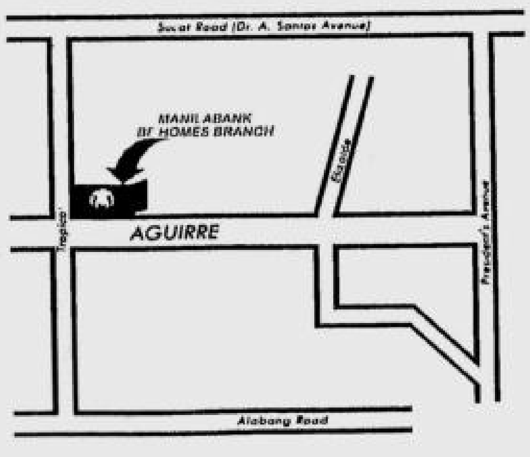

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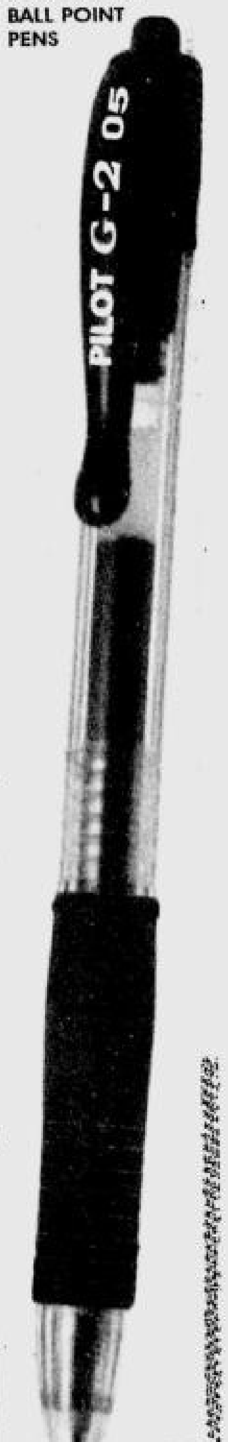

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Yuchengco said there were no plans to close down or sell off PPI.

But he said he would not be shelling out any more of his personal funds to give additional support to PPI.

"This is my personal money and the Central Bank has issued a statement that Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. is very solid and sound," he said when asked if the family-owned RCBC would be tapped for funds or affected by any financial support given to PPI by the Yuchengco family.

The PEP coalition said PPI "deliberately committed corporate suicide" when it allegedly transferred all of its assets and revenue-generating products to a company named Lifetime Plans Inc. for the "measly sum" of P250 million. But the true valuation of the company's assets were actually worth P2.5 billion.

Corporate changes

It said PPI "underwent a series of corporate changes and now finds itself wholly owned by Exemplar Holdings Inc., a nine-month-old company which has a frighteningly diminutive authorized capital of only P100,000."

The coalition said their case would be a "litmus test to determine whether or not this government will protect its citizens from defrauders who had bandied the Yuchengco name and had beguiled and cajoled them with lofty promises so that they will part with their hard-earned money."

In early April, PPI petitioned Makati City Judge Romeo Barza for a suspension of payments and for rehabilitation approval, saying it did not have the money to pay an estimated P350 million in tuition claims for the 2005 enrollment period as well as future claims.

The company said the deregulation of tuition rates and the country's poor economic condition had caused its "liquidity problems."

Some 16,000 holders of traditional or open-ended plans—under which the company undertook to pay the tuition of the beneficiaries whatever the cost on maturity—are expected to file educational claims this school year.

Stay order

Barza issued a stay order, granting PPI's plea to stop paying its creditors and plan holders but allowed the company to disburse some P341 million for "tuition fee support" this school year.

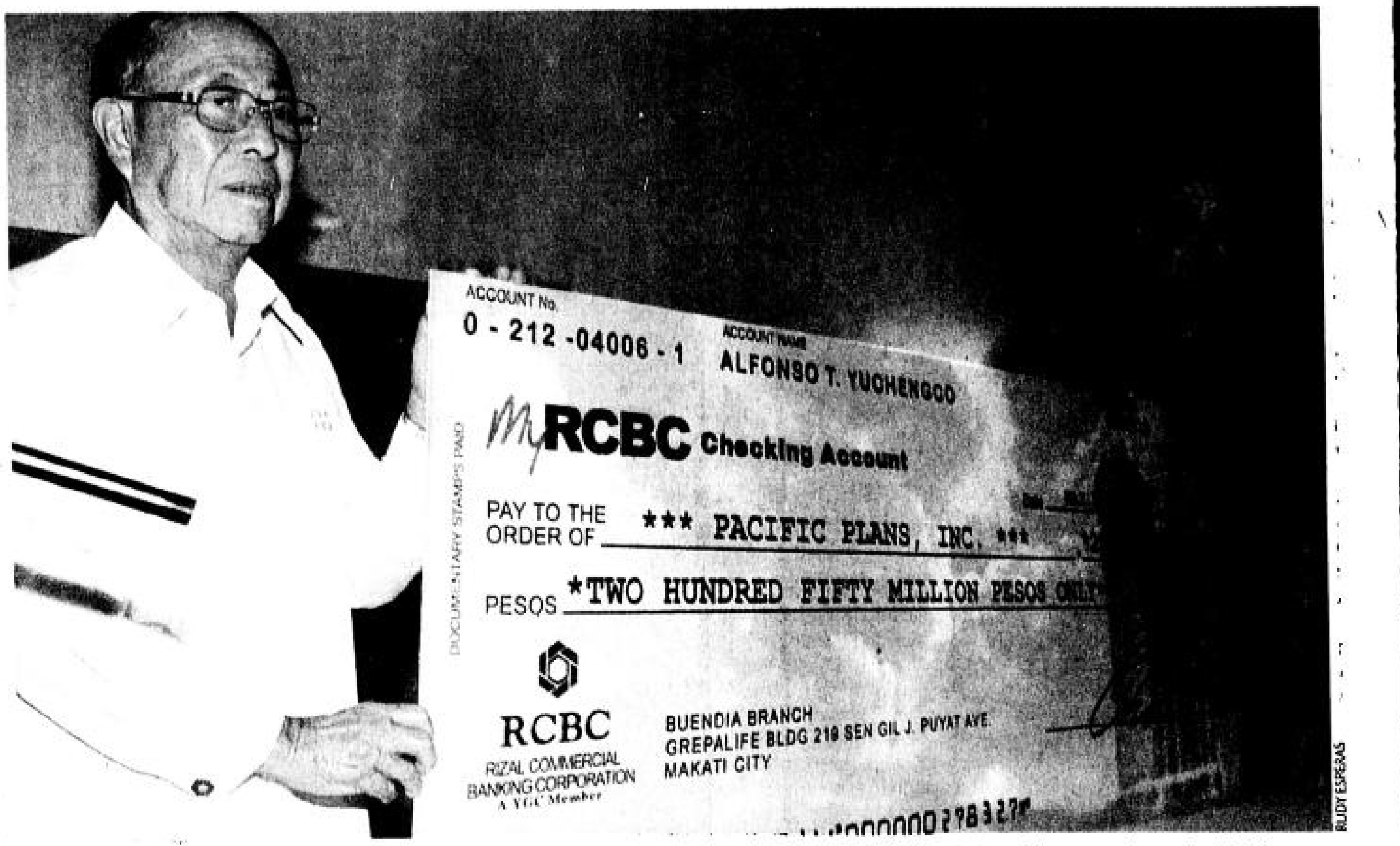
The company offered to return the money of those education plan holders still holding on to their plans in 2010 with a 7-percent interest.

"By approving [PPI's] rehabilitation plan, this court will allow petitioner PPI to swindle 34,000 innocent plan holders of their hard-earned money, to rob them of their dreams and to get away with it scot-free," the PEP said.

If it agrees to PPI's rehabilitation plan, the group said Barza's court "will become not just an accomplice, but a principal to this defraudation."

In a press conference yesterday, PEP Coalition president and spokesperson Philip Piccio challenged members of the Yuchengco family to honor their commitment to their plan holders.

"Now is the opportune time for the Yuchengco family to show its integrity by keeping their word to us, their plan holders. All the more since the patriarch Mr. Alfonso Yuchengco is known as 'Mr. Integrity'," Piccio said.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"I'M BROKE," taipan Alfonso Yuchengco (left) cracks after handing over a P250-million check reportedly from his own pocket to Pacific Plans Inc. president Ernest Garcia on Friday to help outraged plan holders pay their children's tuition for the first semester of the coming school year.

He said Yuchengco's loan of P250 million to PPI was "just for show."

"In essence, that is our money. So why is he making it seem like he is the angel here?" he said.

Appeal to SEC

Piccio appealed to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which regulates the pre-need industry, "to take a firm stand on the issue and make its position very clear."

The SEC, which earlier approved the transfer of assets to Lifetime Plans, had yet to submit its comment to the court on PPI's rehabilitation petition as of press time.

PPI spokesperson lawyer Jeanette Tecson said the spin-off and transfer of the assets of PPI to Lifetime was meant "to protect the 400,000 holders of plans which were not problematic."

She said the holders of the "fixed plans," or plans with a fixed return upon maturity, were the majority in the company.

She said the company had infused a total of P1.5 billion from 1993 to 2004 to pay its plan holders.

"This showed we did not neglect our traditional plan holders," she said.

First hearing

Barza had scheduled the first hearing on PPI's petition for rehabilitation on May 25.

Garcia said PPI was in talks with a local investor who will infuse P300 million into PPI in exchange for convertible preferred shares.

Once the court approves PPI's rehabilitation, the investor has the option to convert the preferred shares into common shares, equivalent to around 50 percent to 60 percent of the proposed rehabilitated, or "new PPI."

The new PPI will sell fixed value plans but this will be indexed on tuition fees of certain schools, Garcia said.

With Yuchengco's contribution added to the P341 million, the total funds available for tuition support this year would be hiked to P591 million, said Garcia.

Support ceiling

The PPI has pegged a tuition support ceiling of P22,000 per semester for those enrolled in non-exclusive schools and P28,000 for exclusive schools.

PPI is set to raise equity to as much as P1 billion in the next four years once its rehabilitation plan is approved, said Garcia.

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Mayors, cops on the take

From page A1

brought in millions of pesos for officials who have allowed it to operate under their noses. Allegations of jueteng payoffs helped bring down the government of former President Joseph Estrada.

"Out of the 36 towns of Isabela [there are 35 towns, 2 cities in Isabela—PDI Research], *may jueteng sa lahat dito sa provincia* [there is jueteng throughout here in the province]," Padaca told reporters after a closed-door meeting at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"So, even if the governor says no to jueteng, I am finding difficulty in fighting it because I cannot get cooperation from the mayors. On the side of the police, it is also difficult for them because 60 to 80 percent of their operation funds come from the assistance of the mayors."

Padaca said she obtained her information from talking with the mayors themselves.

She said the mayors were not funding the jueteng operations. "They just receive money from those who earn from jueteng," she said.

"They say since their budget is not enough for people who need medicines and for those who have no work, the [money from jueteng] helps them. But still it's wrong because jueteng is illegal."

On watch list

Replying to questions, Padaca said: "They [the mayors) did not directly admit that they were getting money but from what they are saying, that is what you can deduce."

Padaca's province is among 24 areas on the list of places where jueteng operates, which was submitted by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz to a congressional probe panel.

Jueteng operations in Isabela are allegedly run by a man closely identified with a political clan in Central Luzon.

Padaca met with Reyes and Lomibao to try and solve her problem with mayors and policemen and turn Isabela into a "showcase" of the government's antijueteng campaign.

Also present were Archbishop Diosdado Tamalayan of Tuguegarao and Bishop Sergio Utleg of Ilagan, Isabela.

It was not clear what commitment Padaca got from Reyes or Lomibao.

During the meeting, Padaca said she asked that Lomibao allow the regional police office to raid jueteng dens in her province.

"Station commanders in the towns and cities usually can't stage raids because they feel uncomfortable with mayors, who help them [financially]," she said in Filipino.

"So it would be better if those who will conduct the raid are not from the town and are not under the mayors."

Cruz's list prompted the PNP to renew its lackadaisical, off-and-on campaign against the illegal numbers game.

Reyes yesterday said that the PNP had made "some major accomplishments in the reduction of jueteng in some specific areas."

As of May 12, Lomibao said jueteng operations had been wiped out in Tarlac, Aurora and Cavite. Cagayan Valley is now allegedly "50 percent jueteng-free."

He did not say how long they would remain "wiped out" in those areas.

Lomibao said only "guerrilla" operations were reported in Angeles City, Pampanga and in one town in Quirino.

"This is a concerted effort of the PNP, of the religious, and of the local officials," he said.

Raring to testify

Reyes said he was prepared to appear before any congressional inquiry into the jueteng issue.

"I'm willing to face all investigation especially in aid of legislation," he said.

Reyes said his department had issued several directives to Lomibao to intensify the antijueteng campaign.

A DILG fact-finding team which looked into the peace and order problem in Abra had reported to Reyes that jueteng operations in the province had the support of local executives and was contributing to the so-called reign of terror in the province.

"But reports show that jueteng is also experiencing a resurgence elsewhere, in other areas of the country," Reyes said.

Earlier, Reyes met with Archbishop Cruz to exchange information on how to deal with the problem. No details of the meeting were immediately available.

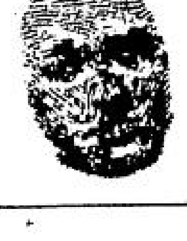
Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel urged Cruz to be more wary about discussing sensitive information about the antijueteng campaign over the phone because of the danger of wiretapping by unscrupulous police.

Cruz earlier complained of hearing "echoes and voices" on his cellular phone, making him suspect that he was being bugged.

Pimentel has included the name of a ranking police officer at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame on the list of officials who might be involved in the illegal numbers game.

The officer is also among those expected to be invited to testify on the jueteng issue before the Senate committee on games, amusement and sports. The committee is to start its inquiry next week.

Sen. Richard Gordon, a longtime city mayor in Olongapo, said that the "de-nationalization" of the country's police force was one way of eradicating jueteng. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***



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Reyes: Why too much attention on media slays?

From page A1

murders the way he solved the kidnappings for ransom.

"I want it to be a very tight plan, the way Secretary Reyes was able to do the tight plan to solve the kidnapping problem," she told reporters.

By the reckoning of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), as many as 68 Filipino journalists have been killed since 1986. The latest was Starline Times Recorder publisher-editor Philip Agustin, who was shot dead on May 10 in Dingalan, Aurora.

Reyes attributed the killings to "number one, probably the killers think that if they're not caught, *kasalanan ng pulis* (it's the police's fault), or [number two] probably if they're caught, they would not be convicted, or it would take years."

He said these could be addressed by the five pillars of the criminal justice system, where the community must be willing to testify, must be vigilant and must inform the police.

He added: "Let us not look at the police as suspects or blame them if a crime is committed because they are there to arrest, not to protect, criminals."

Tripartite conference

At a press conference yesterday in Manila, Reyes proposed that members of the media, the government and the community meet in a tripartite conference to plan concrete and concerted steps to put a stop to the media murders.

"One journalist killed is one too many," he said.

Reyes proposed that the conference be held on June 3-4. He said all those who have a stake in the defense of press freedom should take part.

He claimed that the government was serious in its efforts to help save journalists from more attacks. "This is not a government PR job," he said.

Reyes listed the other objectives of the tripartite conference: to arrive at a common understanding of issues and concerns affecting the media, especially the killings; to identify doable options or solutions to the problems; to serve as a venue for building trust and interaction among the participants; to form a group that would work collectively to achieve solutions; and to open channels for feedback.

He said that for the conference to be independent, he preferred that its funding come from the media, friends of the media, or groups who believed in press freedom.

Parallel jobs

Reyes also said the aim of the conference was not for the media to tell the PNP how to do its job, or vice versa.

"We're trying to do parallel jobs, working toward one direction," he said.

He also said the team-up of journalists and of government agencies would, by itself, serve as a "deterrent" to "the people behind the killings."

But NUJP chair Inday Espina-Varona said one issue that had to be addressed was the government's ambivalent stance toward the killing of journalists.

She also pointed out the inclusion of the NUJP in the Armed Forces' list of "enemies of the state."

Some reporters at the press conference, which was called by a group of journalists, lamented the PNP's perceived inaction.

But Reyes was quick to say that not all policemen were bad. He said there were more policemen doing their job than were reported in the media.

When a reporter asked if he would relieve police officials who failed to solve the killing of journalists, Reyes skirted the question.

"See what a dialogue can do? Let us have faith and trust in each other," he said.

Libel penalties

Also yesterday, Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele, head of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, said the PNP had come up with recommendations to stop the rash of killings nationwide.

Among the proposals is an increase in the penalties for libel from 6 to 12 years imprisonment, and from P6,000 to around P100,000 in fines.

A journalist will thus be more wary of airing or publishing potentially libelous reports, and a person who feels maligned may file a libel case rather than resort to extrajudicial action, Ele said.

A copy of the list of proposals said: "Stiffer penalties will somehow assure high-profile personalities being victimized by irresponsible media broadcasting that commensurate punishment shall be accorded abusive members of the media."

But this measure should be complemented by reforms in the judicial system so that cases will be resolved faster, Ele said. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

Anti-crime summit today

PNP DIRECTOR General Arturo Lomibao yesterday announced that the killing of journalists would be on top of the agenda of an anti-crime summit today in Malacañang.

"This is called by the President to enhance our campaign against criminality, especially the heinous crimes [and] sensational crimes," he said, adding:

"Yes, we're going to talk about the media killings."

But the NUJP said in a statement: "If there is something Filipino journalists do not need these days, it is a 'summit' to address the unabated killings of our colleagues.

"A gabfest will not solve the problem. Law enforcement officials and the national leadership know the problem. In too many cases, the suspects are local officials and/or their henchmen, often active or retired cops or soldiers.

"When a journalist is killed for posing challenges to those in power, that in itself discourages citizens from bearing witness to the truth. In some cases where witnesses have stepped up, they, too, have found themselves under fire.

"The situation is worsened because witnesses in this country can expect little to nil protection for their role in advancing justice.

"Witnesses cannot be enrolled in the witness protection program until a case goes to trial—when logic tells us that a case will never reach trial unless there are witnesses.

"These are problems no summit will resolve. Neither will threats and warnings eradicate these. Only a firm display of political will will discourage the collusion we have seen so far. Only a sustained campaign to protect witnesses will secure enough evidence and proof needed for the conviction of murderers."

2 hunted for Agustin murder

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police yesterday named two suspects in the murder of Starline Times Recorder publisher-editor Philip Agustin in Dingalan, Aurora.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, head of the task force investigating the killing, said Dingalan police had launched a hunt for suspects Boyet Morete and Anuel Alday.

Morete, whom Palad described as a gun for hire, is wanted in the killing of a policeman identified only as Pelaez. Alday is an employee of the Dingalan municipal government.

A third man, supposedly the lookout, has yet to be named.

Palad, however, said there was still no information on Alday's supposed links with Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde, a retired policeman, who remains a suspect in the killing.

Investigators identified the suspects through the testimony of couple Panchito and Isabel Pilapil and a relative of Agustin's.

Councilors Valentino Lapuz and Shiela Taay, Agustin's sister Nenita Mendoza and Agustin's daughter Rosebelle Cruz have blamed Ylarde for the killing.

They said Agustin's reports that were critical of Ylarde's supposed misuse of calamity, resettlement and rehabilitation funds following the deadly landslides in Dingalan late last year had angered the mayor.

Ylarde has denied involvement in the killing, although he admitted that Agustin was one of his staunchest critics.

Agustin, 54, was gunned down at past 11 p.m. on May 10.

Palad said the witnesses, all neighbors of Rosebelle Cruz, reported seeing the three suspects gather at the Pong's Videoke Bar near Cruz's house in Purok Mulawin, Barangay Paltic, at about 9 p.m.

Palad said the witnesses did not actually see Morete and Alday kill Agustin. But they said they saw the three men leave on two motorcycles immediately after the killing.

"What we have is circumstantial evidence for now," Palad told the INQUIRER.

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'Conflict resolution expert' is next US envoy to RP

From page A1

spector General of the US Department of State, is a "well-regarded" career diplomat in the department's Senior Foreign Service.

State Department officials declined to discuss his nomination, explaining that the White House has yet to make an official announcement. But at least four different sources in State confirmed that Hume, ambassador to South Africa from 2001 to 2004, would replace Baghdad-bound Francis Ricciardone. Last February, the INQUIRER published a report about Hume's nomination, which Ricciardone downplayed at the time.

Philippine Ambassador Albert del Rosario said he welcomed the news about Hume, noting that he enjoyed a good reputation in diplomatic circles. Hume has also served as special adviser to the US representative to the UN, ambassador to Nigeria, deputy chief of mission at the Vatican, and political counselor in Syria and Lebanon. His experience as US representative to the Mozambique peace talks and as author of a study on changes in United Nations peacekeeping led Coexist magazine, an international organization of peace advocates, to call him a "conflict resolution expert."

New deputy chief of mission

Hume will be joined at the Manila embassy by a new deputy chief of mission. State officials also said that Eric John, the longtime counselor for political affairs at the South Korean Embassy, will replace the plain-speaking Joseph Mussomeli, who has been named ambassador to Cambodia.

John was already political counselor when Christopher Hill, now the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, served as ambassador to Seoul.

As Assistant Secretary, Hill essentially directs or coordinates US foreign policy for almost all of Asia. He will be served by a new Philippine country desk officer by August this year. Paul Wickberg will be replaced by another career diplomat, Nathaniel "Chip" Dean, who is currently posted at The Hague.

Author of 3 books

Even while declining to declare Hume's appointment for the record, State officials did not stint on their praise, describing him as a "well-regarded" or "very senior" career officer, with one source noting his academic credentials. Hume has written three books, including "The United Nations, Iran and Iraq: How Peacemaking Changed."

In 1994, Hume was appointed a guest scholar at the US Institute of Peace, the same institution that the US government designated as a "facilitator" in the peace negotiations between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

To take effect, Hume's nomination needs to be ratified by the US Congress.

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Cops ready for school opening

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PREPARATIONS for the opening of classes have officially started for the Manila police.

The Western Police District (WPD) has begun tightening security measures within school premises in the city to prevent criminal elements from preying on students and their parents during the enrollment period until the opening of classes in June.

"Through Oplan Balik Paaralan, the WPD is ready to field mobile, motorcycle patrol, and beat patrollers for more intensified police visibility within school vicinities as a deterrent against crime," acting WPD director Supt. Rafael Corpuz said in a statement.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong had started deploying more policemen in different schools to protect the students and parents in time for the enrollment period last month. Forty-eight additional police officers had also been fielded to WPD Police Station 4 to secure the University Belt area from criminal elements.

The WPD had earlier beefed up its detective beat patrol teams to monitor the activities of suspicious-looking people in areas near schools and universities.

WPD officials had also deployed force multipliers like police trackers and barangay watchmen for more effective monitoring in critical areas.

The WPD is also working with the Manila City government to strictly enforce city ordinances, especially against vendors selling wares in waiting sheds, pedestrian lanes and pathways leading to and from the school gates, Corpuz said.

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A case of swift justice

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOUR suspects in the killing of a Chinese-Filipino couple they had also robbed in Quezon City on May 5 have been arrested by police, thanks to the vigilance and support of citizens who had also put up a reward for their capture.

"We would like to thank the Chinese-Filipino community for their support and cooperation. They helped us in the speedy solution of the case," said Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao. The Chinese Filipino Business Club raised P100,000 as reward money on Wednesday.

Police yesterday identified the suspects in the killing of Ephraim and Wendalyn Yao-Young as Gerson Garcia, the alleged gunman; Gener Castro, the confessed driver of the getaway vehicle used in the crime; Danilo Milante, the alleged lookout, and Erlinda Lachica, suspected financier of the gang.

The police are looking for four other persons, including the alleged leader of the group, Nilo Casuela. The other three suspects were identified only by their nicknames "Bryan," "RD" and "Alma."

The four suspects were arrested based on information provided by a "concerned citizen." The tipster heard some of the suspects boasting about the robbery-killing during a drinking session, said a statement from the office of Chief Supt. Ricardo Quinto, director of the Traffic Management Group, and Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, chief of the Central Police District.

Getaway vehicle

Garcia was about to board a private jeep when he was arrested on May 10 in Balintawak, Quezon City. A 45mm pistol believed to have been used in shooting the couple was found on him. The suspects reportedly used the jeep as a getaway vehicle.

A motorcycle reported as stolen in Taguig City on Feb. 5 was also found in front of Garcia's house.

Castro, Milante and Lachica were arrested in a follow-up operation, Quinto said.

The couple's relatives praised the police for a job well done. "We're very happy that the police acted quickly," said lawyer Frederick Yang, Ephraim's brother.

But the family is still in shock, he said. The couple's 2-year-old daughter had no inkling that she had lost her parents, according to Yang.

"It has been difficult for the rest of the family. We were not prepared to see them go, but hopefully, with justice taking its course, some of the pain will go away," he added.

The suspects reportedly belong to a robbery group operating in Metro Manila. Quinto said the suspects had admitted to at least two more robbery cases in the metropolis.

Their modus operandi involved fielding a woman to spy on people depositing or withdrawing money from a bank, who then reports on the potential victims to other members of the group who would carry out the holdup.

Castro and Garcia are no strangers to the police. Records showed that the pair had been arrested previously in Quezon City in connection with a burglary case, but were released on bail. At least three witnesses, who were in the area when the couple was gunned down, positively identified the four suspects.

Quinto said the suspects did not even bother to hide their faces when they smashed the window of the couple's car on Araneta Avenue on May 5, shot them at close range, and took at least P300,000 which the victims had just withdrawn from a bank.

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New and improved hospital opens doors to Manila's poor

By Tina G. Santos

IN A MOVE aimed at providing better health services for the poor, the city government of Manila recently unveiled the new and improved facilities of the Ospital ng Maynila.

The emergency room, which can accommodate 300 to 400 patients daily, is now equipped with six two-toner air-conditioning units.

The infirmary ward designed for city government employees, barangay officials and PhilHealth members and their dependents, can now take in around 60 patients. Fifteen window-type air-conditioning units were put up in its rooms.

On the other hand, four window-type air-conditioning units were installed at the newly renovated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or nursery, for 80 to 100 newborn babies.

The city-owned hospital also acquired 250 brand-new hospital beds, two incubators and two respirators.

It took one month for the city engineer's office to complete the renovation work on the facilities. Apart from redesigning the areas and rearranging the equipment, the walls and ceilings had also been repainted in pastel colors.

Additional lighting and antibacterial vinyl flooring were also installed.

"Health is one of the top priorities of the city government. With the renovation of the vital facilities of Ospital ng Maynila, we guarantee a more efficient and much improved delivery of free health care services for all Manileños, especially the poor," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

The mayor added that the new phase of improvements includes the acquisition of a CT Scan and the renovation of the OB-Delivery Room High Risk Unit.

Atienza was all praises for the city hospital, pointing out that an establishment run by the government could best even privately-owned facilities.

"I always believed that officials and personnel of our city-owned hospitals could think out of the box, as it were, to come up with innovative ways to improve the services provided to patients, most of whom are poor," he added.

The Ospital ng Maynila's Department of Surgery received an Asian Hospital Management Award in 2004. Early this year, it won the prestigious Anvil Award for its Wholistic Social Responsibility Program.

Suspect asks if kidnap charge has probable cause

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SUZETTE Wang, alleged girlfriend of Dennis Roldan, has asked the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to determine if there was probable cause for the case filed by the justice department against her.

Wang is implicated in a kidnapping case where her alleged boyfriend, actor and former congressman Roldan, was the main suspect.

But Branch 261 judge Agnes Carpio said yesterday that she could not decide on Wang's motion yet because the case against her had not been officially admitted by the court.

The Department of Justice had filed a case against Roldan earlier, but Carpio sent it back to the DOJ for preliminary investigation.

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METRO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Cops ready for school opening

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PREPARATIONS for the opening of classes have officially started for the Manila police.

The Western Police District (WPD) has begun tightening security measures within school premises in the city to prevent criminal elements from preying on students and their parents during the enrollment period until the opening of classes in June.

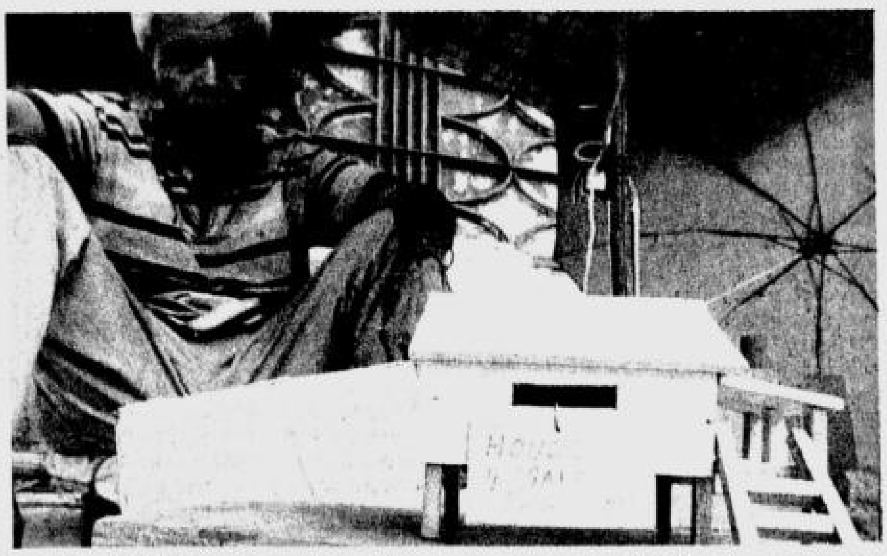
"Through Oplan Balik Paaralan, the WPD is ready to field mobile, motorcycle patrol, and beat patrollers for more intensified police visibility within school vicinities as a deterrent against crime," acting WPD director Supt. Rafael Corpuz said in a statement.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong had started deploying more policemen in different schools to protect the students and parents in time for the enrollment period last month. Forty-eight additional police officers had also been fielded to WPD Police Station 4 to secure the University Belt area from criminal elements.

The WPD had earlier beefed up its detective beat patrol teams to monitor the activities of suspicious-looking people in areas near schools and universities.

WPD officials had also deployed force multipliers like police trackers and barangay watchmen for more effective monitoring in critical areas.

The WPD is also working with the Manila City government to strictly enforce city ordinances, especially against vendors selling wares in waiting sheds, pedestrian lanes and pathways leading to and from the school gates, Corpuz said.



CHEAP HOUSING Francisco Mabesa of Makati City sells miniature houses he makes himself for a living. A former cab driver, the 70-year-old Mabesa lost his job after he was told that he was too old to drive a vehicle. Mabesa himself does not have a home, but lives out his days and nights in the streets. REM ZAMORA

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A case of swift justice

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOUR suspects in the killing of a Chinese-Filipino couple they had also robbed in Quezon City on May 5 have been arrested by police, thanks to the vigilance and support of citizens who had also put up a reward for their capture.

"We would like to thank the Chinese-Filipino community for their support and cooperation. They helped us in the speedy solution of the case," said Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao. The Chinese Filipino Business Club raised P100,000 as reward money on Wednesday.

Police yesterday identified the suspects in the killing of Ephraim and Wendalyn Yao-Young as Gerson Garcia, the alleged gunman; Gener Castro, the confessed driver of the getaway vehicle used in the crime; Danilo Milante, the alleged lookout, and Erlinda Lachica, suspected financier of the gang.

The police are looking for four other persons, including the alleged leader of the group, Nilo Casuela. The other three suspects were identified only by their nicknames "Bryan," "RD" and "Alma."

The four suspects were arrested based on information provided by a "concerned citizen." The tipster heard some of the suspects boasting about the robbery-killing during a drinking session, said a statement from the office of Chief Supt. Ricardo Quinto, director of the Traffic Management Group, and Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, chief of the Central Police District.

Getaway vehicle

Garcia was about to board a private jeep when he was arrested on May 10 in Balintawak, Quezon City. A 45mm pistol believed to have been used in shooting the couple was found on him. The suspects reportedly used the jeep as a getaway vehicle.

A motorcycle reported as stolen in Taguig City on Feb. 5 was also found in front of Garcia's house.

Castro, Milante and Lachica were arrested in a follow-up operation, Quinto said.

The couple's relatives praised the police for a job well done. "We're very happy that the police acted quickly," said lawyer Frederick Yang, Ephraim's brother.

But the family is still in shock, he said. The couple's 2-year-old daughter had no inkling that she had lost her parents, according to Yang.

"It has been difficult for the rest of the family. We were not prepared to see them go, but hopefully, with justice taking its course, some of the pain will go away," he added.

The suspects reportedly belong to a robbery group operating in Metro Manila. Quinto said the suspects had admitted to at least two more robbery cases in the metropolis.

Their modus operandi involved fielding a woman to spy on people depositing or withdrawing money from a bank, who then reports on the potential victims to other members of the group who would carry out the holdup.

Castro and Garcia are no strangers to the police. Records showed that the pair had been arrested previously in Quezon City in connection with a burglary case, but were released on bail. At least three witnesses, who were in the area when the couple was gunned down, positively identified the four suspects.

Quinto said the suspects did not even bother to hide their faces when they smashed the window of the couple's car on Araneta Avenue on May 5, shot them at close range, and took at least P300,000 which the victims had just withdrawn from a bank.

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New and improved hospital opens doors to Manila's poor

By Tina G. Santos

IN A MOVE aimed at providing better health services for the poor, the city government of Manila recently unveiled the new and improved facilities of the Ospital ng Maynila.

The emergency room, which can accommodate 300 to 400 patients daily, is now equipped with six two-toner air-conditioning units.

The infirmary ward designed for city government employees, barangay officials and PhilHealth members and their dependents, can now take in around 60 patients. Fifteen window-type air-conditioning units were put up in its rooms.

On the other hand, four window-type air-conditioning units were installed at the newly renovated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or nursery, for 80 to 100 newborn babies.

The city-owned hospital also acquired 250 brand-new hospital beds, two incubators and two respirators.

It took one month for the city engineer's office to complete the renovation work on the facilities. Apart from redesigning the areas and rearranging the equipment, the walls and ceilings had also been repainted in pastel colors.

Additional lighting and antibacterial vinyl flooring were also installed.

"Health is one of the top priorities of the city government. With the renovation of the vital facilities of Ospital ng Maynila, we guarantee a more efficient and much improved delivery of free health care services for all Manileños, especially the poor," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

The mayor added that the new phase of improvements includes the acquisition of a CT Scan and the renovation of the OB-Delivery Room High Risk Unit.

Atienza was all praises for the city hospital, pointing out that an establishment run by the government could best even privately-owned facilities.

"I always believed that officials and personnel of our city-owned hospitals could think out of the box, as it were, to come up with innovative ways to improve the services provided to patients, most of whom are poor," he added.

The Ospital ng Maynila's Department of Surgery received an Asian Hospital Management Award in 2004. Early this year, it won the prestigious Anvil Award for its Wholistic Social Responsibility Program.

Suspect asks if kidnap charge has probable cause

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SUZETTE Wang, alleged girlfriend of Dennis Roldan, has asked the Pasig City Regional Trial Court to determine if there was probable cause for the case filed by the justice department against her.

Wang is implicated in a kidnapping case where her alleged boyfriend, actor and former congressman Roldan, was the main suspect.

But Branch 261 judge Agnes Carpio said yesterday that she could not decide on Wang's motion yet because the case against her had not been officially admitted by the court.

The Department of Justice had filed a case against Roldan earlier, but Carpio sent it back to the DOJ for preliminary investigation.

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Court to rule on MMDA appeal

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court Branch 145 is set to rule on the appeal of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to reconsider its decision voiding the agency's two foremost traffic schemes.

Judge Cesar Santamaria said yesterday the MMDA's appeal on the injunction he issued against the implementation of the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT) and No-Contact Traffic Apprehension (NCTA) schemes had been submitted for resolution.

Santamaria made the announcement during what was supposed to be a hearing on the MMDA's motion for reconsideration.

The MMDA and transport groups that sued the agency were supposed to deliver their arguments on the reconsideration plea, but neither of them made it to the hearing.

Court interpreter Jay Lacambra said the motion, filed on Monday afternoon, was "subject to speedy disposition," although only the presiding judge could say when he would issue his ruling.

The eight-page MMDA motion asked the court to declare as "moot and academic" its decision declaring the NCTA unconstitutional for obliging errant drivers to pay for traffic violations without being able to question the citation.

The MMDA argued that the "pay-first-before-protest" provision under the NCTA scheme had already been repealed, and traffic violators already had the right to appeal their citation.

The agency also asked the court to abide by a recent Supreme Court decision which, said the MMDA, recognized the validity of the MTT.

Santamaria resolved that the MTT was void as it lacked the necessary approval of the Metro Manila Council (MMC), the MMDA policy-making body composed of Metro Manila mayors.

Under the MTT, traffic enforcers no longer confiscated licenses of errant drivers but simply issued citation tickets obliging them to settle their fines in Metrobank branches.

The NCTA, on the other hand, is a scheme where traffic enforcers deployed in major thoroughfares catch traffic violators with the use of still and video cameras.

Bay area lures water sports fans today

By Tina G. Santos

THE BAYWALK on Roxas Boulevard, Manila, is expected to be filled today not only with health buffs, but also with tanned men and women with a passion for water sports.

A dragon boat race will be among the highlights of the Manila Summer Seaports Festival, an event expected to draw throngs of families as well as curious tourists to the area.

Mayor Lito Atienza will lead the ceremonial flag off of the various nautical races in the early morning ceremony known as "awakening of the dragon" at the Manila Bay.

In this time-honored, worldwide ritual, the racers paint the eyes of the dragon on their boats before the competition, believing that this will awaken the mythical creature to wage battle.

After the dragon boat races, sailing, wall climbing and beach volleyball competitions will follow. An Olympic sculling exhibition will also be featured by the Amateur Rowing Association of the Philippines.

The dragon boat races will be participated in by the men's, women's and inter-military teams from the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation.

Participants in the sailing competition will come from the Philippine Sailing Association. Categories include the Optimist class, with competitors from 5 to 15 years old; and the 420, 470, Laser and Streaker, with competitors from 16 years old and above.

The wall climbing competition, with bouldering and speed climbing as the two main categories, includes participants from the Sport Climbing Association.

The beach volleyball games, on the other hand, will feature the national team. These two sports are the latest additions to the competitions for this year's festival.

The awarding of winners for their various contests will be held in the afternoon, to be followed by a concert featuring top bands and performers.

Maceda charged with libel

By Fran Katigbak

JURIS Umali-Soliman, chief of staff of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, filed libel charges yesterday against former Sen. Ernesto Maceda in Pasay City.

Soliman claimed that Maceda's column in the broadsheet The Daily Tribune made false accusations and attacked her integrity on two occasions.

In the April 25 column, "Corruption from end to end," Maceda said an P8.5-million contract was awarded to a supplier who would produce 637 uniforms to be used by Palace employees for the June 12 Independence Day celebrations.

"Malacañang employees are complaining against the excessive cost, not to mention the design for which they were not consulted," said the columnist.

The column alleged the supplier said the high cost was due to her having to "donate" half of the contract price to someone close to the First Gentleman to get the deal.

Although no names were mentioned, Soliman felt alluded to as the one who received the "donation" because she had worked with the First Gentleman and was chair of Malacañang's Ladies Dress Code Committee.

Soliman sent Maceda a two-page letter saying the article made false accusations and was "deliberately malicious."

But on May 5, Maceda wrote another article, this time naming Soliman and discussing the letter from her.

"Mrs. Soliman should now ask the PSG to grill her supplier *kung sino 'sa loob' ang tumanggap ng bayad,*" said Maceda.

"At a time when GMA is pushing for new taxes because of a huge deficit, ordering expensive new uniforms is extremely insensitive."

But Soliman said she had the original contract and the receipt for the 50-percent down payment.

The documents would show the cost of the uniforms "will definitely and in no way reach P8.5 million" and disprove claims that someone close to the First Gentleman received half the contract price, she said.

The chief of staff said the uniforms were meant for everyday use and not only for Independence Day, which would be a Sunday. She denied that Palace employees were complaining about the uniforms. In fact, they even asked the supplier to make extra skirts and pants, Soliman added.

The Ladies Dress Code Committee also conducted a survey on the design of the uniforms.

"My father [Felicisimo Atienza Umali] is an honorable and well-respected war veteran. I will not ruin his name," said Soliman, who also served under former President Corazon Aquino.

The libel case was filed in Pasay because the city was neutral territory, she said.

"I want to put a stop not only to Maceda but others who malign and destroy people's reputation through false accusations and fabricated stories," said Soliman.

Robber dies in Caloocan shootout

A ROBBER was killed while two others were arrested in a shootout between police and holdup men in Camarin, Caloocan City, yesterday afternoon.

Killed was Joji Simon, an alleged member of a robbery gang which often victimized jeepney passengers. Police also arrested Antonio Gabarra and a still unidentified suspect.

Police Chief Supt. Leo Garra said the suspects were alleged members of the Bulabog gang who had robbed a passenger jeepney coming from Quezon City. A patrol car had noticed a scuffle between a woman passenger and one of the robbers.

Police tried to stop the vehicle, but were fired upon by the fleeing suspects. "My men had no choice but to fire back, killing one of the suspects," Garra said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Marikina City for Food Fortification

Marikina for food fortification scheme

MARIKINA City and two of its officials, led by Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando, were given due recognition Monday for initiating the food fortification program in the city, the first by a city government in the country.

Also presented with a recognition award was Councilor Jose Fabia Cadiz, who authored City Ordinance No. 143, or the Food Fortification Code of Marikina City. The two officials received their awards of recognition during the formal launching of the Marikina City for Food Fortification Program (MCFFP) held at the city's public market and freedom park. Department of Health Undersecretary Margarita Galon, who was the guest of honor, and Carina Stover, chief for Population Health and Nutrition of the United States Agency for International Development, presented the awards.

Under the Code, the city's food manufacturers and retailers are required to fortify their food products with iron, Vitamin A and iodine to fight micronutrient deficiency.

Speedy resolution of cases vs cops

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FROM now on, citizens who have filed administrative cases against policemen won't have to wait long for the resolution of their complaints.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes to speed up the resolution of policemen's administrative cases pending in various offices.

The units handling citizens' complaints against cops include the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) of the National Police; the National Police Commission (Napolcom); the Internal Affairs Service and the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB).

Except for the DIDM, the cases heard by these offices take a long, long time to resolve. Some even take years, like those in the civil courts.

The President told Reyes administrative cases should be finished within a three-month period.

Because of the long delay, complainants lose interest in pursuing their complaints in these bodies.

The President was appalled when I told her during a dinner-meeting in Malacañang Wednesday that out of every 10 people who come to me at the "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" public service program every day, seven complain against abusive and corrupt policemen.

"Isumbong" gets an average of 30 complaints a day.

"That big number, Mon?" she said. She then called Reyes, who's chair of the Napolcom, and told him to set a meeting with this writer. "Isumbong" receives complaints from citizens and refers them to the various complaints bodies.

* * *

GMA has asked her husband, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, to stop his mercy missions of giving free dentures and free medical assistance to poor people.

Mike Arroyo's humanitarian gesture has been criticized by his detractors who said that it was only "for show."

Poor Mike. Whatever he does is misunderstood.

I can personally attest to the fact that Mike Arroyo's mercy missions were driven by a genuine desire to help the needy.

I have brought a number of heart patients to the First Gentleman who sincerely extended a helping hand.

One such heart patient was a one-year-old girl from Tacloban City whose surgery and hospital bills he had shouldered. When the girl's parents went to thank Mike, he told them the child reminded him of his granddaughter.

"He's so kind, *Manong* Ramon. Thank you for bringing us to him," the grateful parents told me in the Waray dialect. I can no longer recall the names of the couple and the child.

Mike Arroyo's assistance to the needy was never *pakitang-tao* (for show) because he's not a politician.

It's a pity that the poor and needy will suffer as a result of GMA's request (actually, an order) that the First Gentleman stop his mercy missions.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is really a master of "muddle-talk." The word—my invention—means muddling up an issue (the latest "jueteng" scandal, in this case) by saying contradictory things.

First, he said he knew the "whistle-blower" who gave the code names M1, M2 and JS7 as jueteng protectors. The good senator said he would have the whistle-blower summoned.

And then, he said the squealer was not a credible police official.

Now, Lacson wants the INQUIRER reporters who wrote about the alleged protectors summoned to the Senate. He wants the reporters to reveal their source of information.

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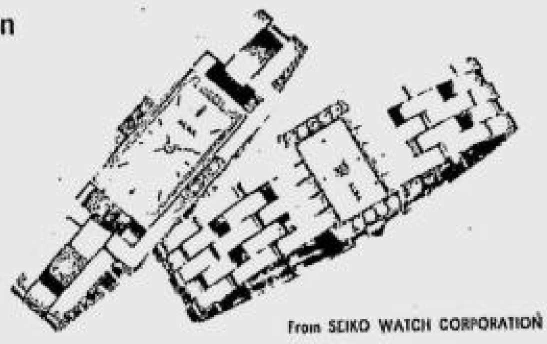

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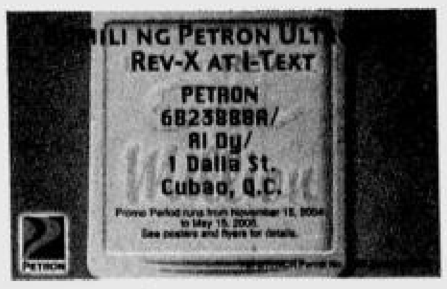
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BAP man calls Peping power-mad

By Musong R. Castillo

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines legal counsel Boni Alentajan yesterday accused POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco of power-grabbing and fighting a war not his own.

Alentajan fired shots at Cojuangco two days before the POC decides on the fate of the BAP which has been flip-flopping on the issues concerning the national cage team.

"Naaawa kami kay Peping na sumasabak sa laban na hindi kanya (We pity Peping for fighting a war not his own)," Alentajan was quoted as saying by a tabloid reporter.

"Gustong kainin ang kapangyarihan ng BAP (He wants to have the powers of the BAP)," Alentajan said of Cojuangco in reference to the POC president's threat to strip the BAP of recognition as the national sports association for basketball.

Alentajan also lashed at the Inquirer and this reporter, whom he accused of peddling lies regarding the story that appeared yesterday which quoted BAP VP Christian Tan on POC-appointed coach Chot Reyes.

"Sinungaling yan (He's a liar)," Alentajan said, referring to the Inquirer report even though the story carried direct quotes from Reyes.

Joey Romasanta, spokesman for the POC president, brushed aside Alentajan's outburst, noting that the BAP-POC row needs "honorable men" at this point and not inputs from a lawyer.

Alentajan had to ask the tabloid reporter where he could file a complaint against the Inquirer, without realizing that he could easily file a libel suit against the paper if he feels the BAP has a case.

The BAP had met with POC chair Robert Aventajado on Thursday and presented its reply to Cojuangco's letter.

There were no significant developments in the meeting, though the BAP, represented by Fritz Gaston, Alentajan and Tan, assured Aventajado that it would forward the reply to the POC on Monday.

Miller shines as Phone Pals overpower listless Chargers

STA. LUCIA'S Billy Mamaril barrels into Harvey Carey of Talk 'N Text during their game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TODAY (*Boy Aquino Sports Center, San Pablo City*)
4 p.m.—FedEx vs Alaska

By June Navarro

SOMETHING hit Shell that even Talk N Text couldn't fathom. Deadly on both ends of the court, the Phone Pals clobbered the Turbo Chargers, 84-71, last night in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jerald Honeycutt and Willie Miller gave debuting Shell import Ajani Williams a rude reception as they joined forces to push the Phone Pals back into solo leadership with 10 victories and five setbacks to show.

"I really can't explain what happened to them (Shell)," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, whose Phone Pals need two more victories to secure one of the top two slots which entitles them to an automatic semifinal berth.

"I just told my players to make up on defense because we lack in offense," he added after Talk 'N Text missed Jimmy Alapag's 16-point average the past two games.

In the second game, Red Bull unloaded a 20-0 run in the final canto to rip Purefoods, 101-85.

New Barako import Earl Barron debuted with 34 points and 13 rebounds as Red Bull tied the Hotdgos at 7-8.

The Phone Pals held the Turbochargers to an atrocious 27-percent shooting right in the first half and built a 32-point cushion, 57-25, the momentum of which Talk 'N Text never relinquished down to the last minute.

The carnage began when the Turbochargers, who lost top scorer Tony Dela Cruz and Chris Jackson to suspension, made four of their 23 attempts in the initial quarter for a horrendous 17.4-shooting percentage.

On the other side of the floor, the Phone Pals were smoldering even without their ace playmaker, hitting 58 percent of their shots in the first half and scoring 16 points off turnovers.

The Turbo Chargers have now dropped three straight games and lost six of their last seven assignments.

Banal and the Phone Pals' last three assignments are against San Miguel, Alaska and Barangay Ginebra. They need to win just two to clinch the No. 1 spot and an outright semifinal slot.

Ajani Williams, who replaced 7-foot-1 Melvin Robinson and played for Alaska in the 2002 Commissioner's Cup, debuted with 19 points and nine rebounds but was benched in the fourth when Shell's ninth defeat in 15 games became imminent.

Kalani Ferreria was reinstated along with Coca-Cola's Will Antonio and Manny Ramos after completing the documentary requirements imposed by the league on foreign-born players.

The scores:
First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 84—Honeycutt 15, Miller 14, Telan 13, Gelig 9, De Ocampo 8, Fran 6, Camaso 6, Pablo 5, Ravena 4, Salangsang 2, Carey 2, Belano 0.

SHELL 71—Williams 19, Mamaril 14, Ferreria 8, Calagulo 7, Alvarez 6, Yap 6, Sharma 4, Tubid 3, Sotto 2, Sta. Maria 2, Cruz 0, Bajar 0, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 27-13, 57-25, 76-47, 84-71.

CHICK-FIL-A TILT

Rosales 2 strokes off Briton Davies; Sorenstam lurks

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia—Annika Sorenstam returned to her her customary place on the leaderboard Thursday, shooting a bogey-free 67 to be one stroke behind first-round leader Laura Davies of England at the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship.

Defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines was a stroke back and two shots off the lead, joining nine other players with a 68.

Rosales had nines of 32-36 for her four-under card at the Eagle's Landing Country Club course.

Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin had a rough start and shot a 77.

Australian Karrie Webb also started with a 67 and Cristie Kerr, who won last week's Michelob Ultra Open to end Sorenstam's five-tournament winning streak, had a 4-under 68 that left her just two strokes off the lead and one behind Sorenstam.

"Obviously, she's been the best player in the world for a long time, but there's a lot of players willing to step up and challenge her," Kerr said about Sorenstam. "I'm not too concerned about her. I'm just going to play my game."

Sorenstam made a couple of nice saves from the sand but was never in serious trouble.

"It's always nice to get off to a good start and get some momentum for the week," said Sorenstam, who opened with a 76 last week and finished 10 strokes behind Kerr. "It's no fun getting off to a rotten start. You have to fight back all the way, and you don't feel like you can make any mistakes."

The Swede is very familiar with the golf course, having won the Atlanta-area tournament in 2001.

"I'm happy to come out and be able to read some greens," Sorenstam said. "Last week, I couldn't see a single thing. I would tell my caddie, 'I think it's left edge,' and he would say, 'No, I think it's on the right.' I really didn't know what to do. Here, I have a good feel, and it's nice to be back on the right track again."

Sorenstam's one-week letdown pales in comparison to Davies, who is on her fourth putter in five weeks. Finally, the Englishwoman found one to her liking, shooting her lowest score of the year at an event she won in 1995.

Davies didn't make any long putts, but she watched a bunch of short ones drop. The only stumble: a three-putt from 20 feet on her third hole.

"Maybe today was a good turning point for me," said Davies, who broke 70 for only the second time in 26 rounds.

It was a day for going low. The Chick-fil-A has been plagued by stormy conditions throughout its history, but this year's event was moved back two weeks in hopes of getting better weather.

Temperatures were in the high 20s Celsius (80s Fahrenheit) Friday — a sunny, humid day, and the players got plenty of distance on the rock-hard fairways. Only the firm greens kept scores from getting totally out of hand. *AP*

JENNIFER Rosales hits her second shot on the 10th hole. AP

STANDINGS	W	L
Montaña	8	1
Harbour	7	2
Welcoat	6	3
Toyota Otis	5	4
Granny G.	4	5
Magnolia	4	5
Bacchus	2	7
Nenaco	0	9

GAMES TODAY
(*JCSGO Gym, Cubao*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs. Nenaco-San Beda
4 p.m.—Bacchus vs.Toyota Otis-Letran

Harbour, Toyota face new foes

A COUPLE of days after their bruising confrontation, Harbour Centre and Toyota Otis-Letran return to action against separate foes today as the PBL Unity Cup eliminations near the homestretch.

The Port Masters, who will try to close in on the second outright semis berth, are heavily favored against winless Nenaco-San Beda in the 2 p.m. game at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

The Knights, on the other hand, are also locked in a three-way fight for two slots with twice-to-beat privileges in the quarterfinals, and a win against lightly-regarded Bacchus in the 4 p.m. contest would serve them well.

"We don't want to become their first victim," Harbour Centre coach Tonichi Yturri said. "We have a simple mindset, and that is not to take this team lightly."

The Port Masters will be coming into the match goaded by three straight wins, including a physical 89-67 victory over Toyota on Thursday that had ace Mac Cardona sitting out the fourth due of cuts in the face and head.

One of the leading candidates for MVP, Cardona still finished with 20 points on Thursday and will remain the focal point of the Harbour Centre offense.

Musong R. Castillo

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Prestige Cars BMW [illegible]
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2551 Series of 2005

NCR unsure despite big gold harvest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ILOILO CITY—National Capital Region may be groaning under the weight of its gold medals but it's bound to whine over the point rankings dominated yesterday by Calabarzon and host Western Visayas in the penultimate day of the Palarong Pambansa at the Iloilo Sports Complex here.

Calabarzon, gaining from team events like children's baseball and sepak takraw, is ahead in the elementary points system with 116 points, while the Big City bets have only 100, and WV at third with just 62 points, based on the results released as of 3 p.m. yesterday.

In high school action, the host delegation amassed big points after winning the softball competition over Calabarzon (9-0) to take a slim 127.5-126.5 lead over NCR. Central Visayas is third in the division with 82.5 points, while Calabarzon is not far behind with 84 points.

Western Visayas and Calabarzon also exploited their victories (worth 15 points each) in secondary and elementary boys sepak takraw, respectively, where NCR didn't get a single point.

There will be separate awarding of overall championships to elementary and secondary victors, according to Palaro results, records and documentation chair Adela Brazal.

The point tally, however, didn't include the results in athletics and swimming which were to be concluded late yesterday and would reward the overall champion additional 30 points each.

Of the centerpiece events, NCR is assured only of the secondary swimming championship, while both divisions in athletics and elementary swimming are still an open battle.

If the Olympic-style rankings were to be implemented, NCR would be way ahead in the medal race with a combined count of 45 golds, 30 silvers and 41 bronzes.

Calabarzon, which stands for Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon, now has a 34-26-16 medal tally, while host Western Visayas is a far third with 20-24-29.

Yet back in the field, NCR carried on its domination by winning a combined 10 gold medals in girls' secondary volleyball, elementary badminton, chess and swimming. The Big City cagers also made it to the finals of the secondary boys' basketball, buoyed by the overpowering performance of San Beda College.

The Big City volleybelles subdued WV, 25-16, 17-25, 25-20, 25-18, for the girls' secondary crown, but WV got even in the boys' secondary finals by coming out with a thrilling 25-22, 22-25, 25-20, 18-25, 15-13, final victory over NCR.

Ramon Lorenzo Guerrero spearheaded NCR's triple-gold in the elementary badminton by winning the singles gold even as Peter Gabriel Magnaye and Michael Taculad claimed the boys' doubles crown and Magnaye and Gelita Castillo annexed the mixed doubles top plum.

WV managed to salvage a gold through Precious Mae Ballenas in the girls' singles, while Irish Mae Aberilla and Ana Marie Abangan of Davao Region bagged the girls' doubles gold.

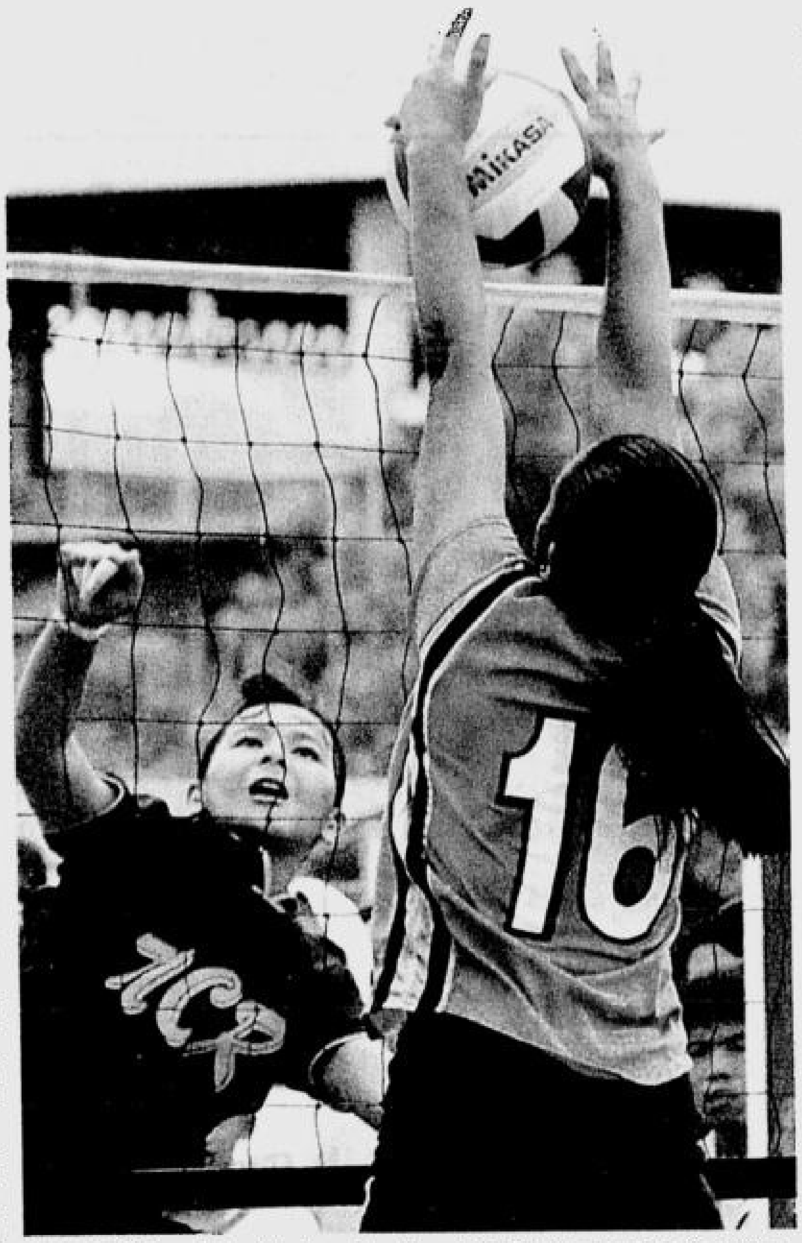
Elementary chess for girls and boys were swept by NCR, although Central Visayas snared the team championship in the secondary girls and Davao Region topped the secondary boys' competition.

In archery, Ma. Lourdes Colegado of Central Visayas earned her second gold after ruling the Olympic round of the girls' secondary. competition, the same way Ram Zotomayor of Calabarzon hit his second victory in the boys' Olympic round.

Central Visayas, fourth in elementary points system and third in the secondary, scored two gold medals in lawn tennis through Sally Mae Sison and Sallydine Siso in the elementary girls' doubles and Bernardine Siso and Jayvee Canoy in the elementary boys' doubles.

Jonicka Martina Guba of La Carlota City plucked the lone gold for Western Visayas, beating NCR's Regina Santiago in the elementary girls singles, while Northern Mindanao's Casey Alcantara defeated Chadi Lao for the elementary boys' singles final.

In athletics, Western Visayas boosted its stock with golden performances from Razel Delideli in the secondary girls' 200m, Jenny May Lago in the elementary girls 200m, Emmanuel de Ocampo Jr. in the secondary boys 200m and Jean Palencia in the secondary girls 3,000m run. Calabarzon's Rolan Abling took the elementary boys 200m gold.



WESTERN Visayas' Angeline Pugadera thwarts NCR'S Mary Jane Pepito during the secondary girls' volleyball final won by the Big City tossers. JESS YUSON

Kart rivals highlight Shell races

FOCUS will be on the rivalry between Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli and Asian Karting Queen Michelle Bumgarner in the Open class, but high drama looms in the Formula Rotax Max Novice class race between Oliver Aquino and Jean Marcelo as the 2005 Shell Helix Superkarting Series stages its third leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Aquino and Marcelo are even as far as winning is concerned. Marcelo topped the first leg at the Carmona Circuit Philippines while Aquino, last year's KT Light champion, bounced back in the second leg at Boom Na Boom.

In the overall standings, Aquino leads the title race with 115 points but Marcelo is close behind with 110 and could wrest the top spot if he rules this weekend's races sponsored by the Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Khaos, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance.

Also favored in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) are Paolo Eslao, Javy Benitez of JeT Racing and Vencer Suba of the Cebu Racing Group.

Pinoy pugs flex muscles

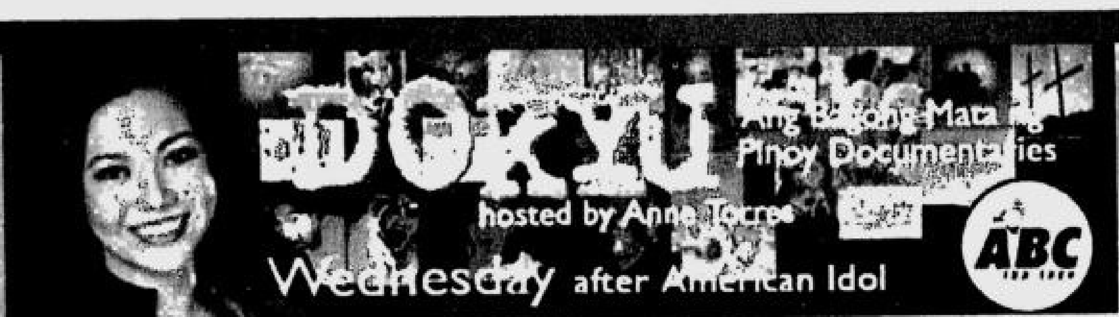
AFTER a slow start, splitting its first round assignments, the Philippine boxing team flexed its muscles to win 8 of 10 fights in their two-day dual meet with Sri Lanka at the Sugathadasa indoor stadium in Colombo this weekend.

Albert Pabila started the RP onslaught by winning his light flyweight bout against Nayagith Alexander, followed by light welterweight Florencio Ferrer, who disposed quickly of W.M.R Wekadapola.

Filipina boxers Alice Kate Aparri and Annie Albania breezed through their flyweight and bantamweight bouts against Anusha Kodituwakku and Niluka Karunaratne, respectively, while Genebert Basadre beat Upali Bandara in their lightweight match.

Not to be outdone, featherweight Kamal Sameera of Sri Lanka stopped Francis Cotamura, while bantamweight Manju Wantarachchi nipped Rolando Magbanua.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday, May 14, 2005



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Ang Bagong Mata ng Pinoy Documentaries
hosted by Anne Torres
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ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Kaya Mo Ba 'To		Nginig: The Hidden Files		Star Dance		Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents			Kontrobersyal (11:45PM)
ABC 5	Trip Ko 'To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Dwelsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	Onstage		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Showbiz Stripped	
RPN 9		Global Window		Byaheng Langit	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						Money Talk	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		Lifestyle		X-Games		Tigers Skins		Bitag		In This Corner		Ugnayang Pambansa	
JackTV		WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Drawn Together	The Man Show	Primetime Glick	Beat The Geeks
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	1, 2, 3	Snick: Unfabulous (New)/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Romansa	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing	The Bachelor (8:40 PM)	Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Reel Deal
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Sports TV	Mr. Bean	7th Heaven	Gilmore Girls (7:45 PM)				Studio 23 Present				
AXN									E Buzz	30 Seconds To Fame		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)					
Star World		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise		TNA Xplosion		Wow! The Most Awesome Acts On Earth (Saturday Shockumentaries)		Dog The Bounty Hunter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveller	World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart: Global Edition	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Big Cat Challenge		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wildlife Diary	Big Bite Nite			
Solar Sports					Kotv Magazine	Euro Med Storm Intl. Tenpin Bowling				Sports Desk	Greatest Classics				NBA Playoffs Semi-finals Game3				
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Dala Plata	Email Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO	Point Of Origin (2:20PM)		Babe (3:45PM)				Old School (5:20PM)			The Rookie (6:50PM)			HBO Sneak Peek S.W.A.T. (8:45PM)	The Italian Job				Six Feet Under 47 Coming And Going (10:50PM)	Gattaca (11:40PM)
Star Movies		Hannibal (3:15 PM)					That Thing You Do!			Life Or Something Like It				Laws Of Attraction			Rising Sun (10:35PM)		
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Barbie Fairytopia			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename: Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
ESPN														2004 [illegible] Table Tennis Championships	NBA Playoffs Conf. S'finals Game3				
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina, The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		A League Of Their Own				Dirty Deeds (5:15 PM)				The Ring				Avenging Angelo			Snakehead Terror		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Jessica				Jessica				Rats		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed, Manipulation			The Blackwater Lightship (10:35PM)				
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Science Frontiers		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		The New Detectives		Extreme Discovery	
Sports Plus					Blue Angels Classic Day1					Bikini Destination	Nopi Tunerversion	World's Greatest Auto Shows		The Search TV	Get A Grip On Golf	Eds Byron Nelson C'ship Day2			
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Gold & Glory In Greece		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced			Business & Leisure		

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Alit, 16 other Pinoy 'rabbits' gain RP Open berths

VETERAN Rey Alit matched par 72 in the final day of qualifying on Thursday at tree-lined Villamor to finish with a 54-hole 222 total and tow 16 other homegrown bets into the 89th Philippine Open proper.

Alit's six-over total for three days was good for a share of third place, two strokes behind Korean Lee Seong-ki and Shaaban Hussin of Malaysia, who shot a 75 and a 74, respectively, yesterday for 220 tallies.

Lee carded 72 and 73 in the first two rounds, while Hussin had 72-74 as a total of 20, counting the only other foreign qualifier—Korean amateur Min Gyu Cho—gained entry into the $200,000 event set at the Club Malarayat in Lipa City on May 19-22.

Five Filipino amateurs led by national pool members Erwin Vinluan and Boyet Saragoza (76-230) also made the cut.

Vinluan fired a 72 and finished in a four-man tie for third place with Alit, Rolando Marabe (75) and Elmer Salvador (72).

Junior sensation Tonlits Asistio will play his first Open despite a 78-79 effort in the final two days. The country's Junior World spearhead wound up with a 230 total like Gene Bondoc.

Eddie Bagtas, Ruben Sasutil, Zaldy Salvador, Rodolfo Ardimer, Willie de Tomas, Ernie Rellon, Ibarra Quachion, Jess Toribio and Ronnie Torrecampo (A) were the other Filipino qualifiers in the event being presented by Philippine Airlines, ICTSI, San Miguel Corp. and Konica U-bix.

89TH PHILIPPINE OPEN
MAY 19 - 22, 2005

Other backers are the Hanjin Group, Pagcor, Aboitiz Group of Companies, Petron, PCSO and the Department of Tourism with the Lima City Hotel the official residence.

The 32-room Malarayat Hotel will be the official home of the amateurs from the Philippines, which will also include national pool members Juvic Pagunsan, Artemio Murakami, Michael Bibat, Jay Bayron and Jun Bernis.

Meanwhile, actor Richard Gomez and former Parañaque mayor Joey Marquez head the celebrities seeing action in the pro-am event that officially ushers the start of the event on May 18 (Wednesday).

A His & Hers pair of Constellation watches from Omega and a horde of home theater items will be raffled off in the Celebrity Pro-Am with Lipa mayor Vilma Santos-Recto to award the prizes.

The newly inaugurated Mt. Malarayat Inn, a 24-room structure, will house the tournament staff, television crew and media that will cover the event for free.

Flores stakes WBO-Asia fly title tonight

REXON Flores stakes his World Boxing Organization (WBO) Asia-Pacific flyweight title against Alwi Alhabsy of Indonesia at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque tonight.

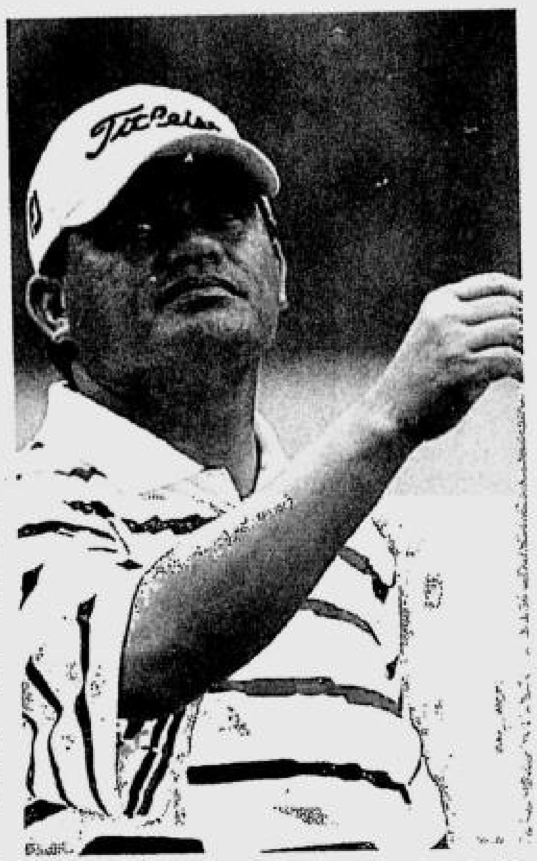
The 22-year-old Flores, ranked No. 6 flyweight by the WBO and eyeing his 9th straight victory in three years, has a 13-2-2 win-loss-draw record with 7 knockouts.

He stopped the tough Samart TwinGym of Thailand in three rounds last November. He hopes to use defense as springboard for a WBO world flyweight title fight against Argentina's Omar Narvaez possibly in October.

Alhabsy (17-5-5, with 6 KOs) belittled Flores' talent and vowed to end his foe's winning streak.

Action starts at 7 p.m. with three four-round tiffs, one six-round fight and the main supporting 10-round clash between Sukarno Banjao vs Pablo Guevarra.

The fight will be televised at 11 p.m over NBN Channel 4.



FRANKIE Miñoza stays in touch with a two-under 69.

Miñoza, Rosales make Macau cut

MACAU—Frankie Miñoza and Gerald Rosales returned under-par scores yesterday to easily make the halfway cut in the $275,000 Macau Open dominated by Taiwan's Lu brothers.

Miñoza, still looking for the form that gave him a half-dozen titles in the Japan Tour in the '90s, fired a two-under-par 69 to be at 142, the same output of Rosales who shot a 70.

The two Filipinos stood 10 shots off the pace set by Taiwan's Lu Wei-lan.

The halfway cut was set at 144, with 67 players moving into the weekend rounds. Among the casualties were Filipinos Felix Casas (73-72), Danny Zarate (73-74), Jerome Delariarte (75-72) and Carito Villaroman (73-78); Australian Andrew Buckle, who tied for second at last week's SK Telecom Open in South Korea, British Open-bound Mardan Mamat of Singapore and another Aussie, Richard Moir.

In what turned into a Lu family outing, Wei-lan snatched a one-stroke lead following a masterful five-under-par 66 and younger brother Wei-chih fired the week's first hole-in-one.

The 31-year-old Wei-lan was in irrepressible form at the par-71 Macau Golf and Country Club as he tamed strong winds with six birdies on the card, including four on the treacherous homeward stretch. His two-day total of 10-under-par 132 is one stroke clear of Australian Marcus Both, who moved into contention with a battling 68.

Former Taiwan Open champion Jason Dawes of Australia, who switched to a broomhandle putter this week, was lurking two strokes adrift after a 67 while title holder Jason Knutzon maintained his challenge with a 68 for joint fourth place on 135 alongside China's Zheng Wen-gen, Chinese Taipei veteran Wang Ter-chang, Korea's Suk Jong-yol and Australian Terry Pilkadaris.

While the Lu brothers were relishing a special occasion in the Asian Tour event, the tournament's drawcard Fred Couples endured a tumultuous day.

The former US Masters champion fired a disappointing 72, which included seven birdies, four bogeys and a quadruple bogey eight, and was eight shots back in tied 24th position.

Two-time Macau Open champion Zhang Lianwei of China failed to ignite his title challenge on a breezy day, shooting a 70 for 139.

adidas Streetball elims wind up today in Baguio

INTENSE action is lined up in today's wind-up of the two-day adidas Streetball Challenge-Baguio eliminations at the St. Louis University in Baguio City.

To be decided are spots in the regional finals set Sunday at SM-Baguio where winners will join the other leg champions in the Naga, San Fernando and Lipa eliminations for the right to represent Luzon in the National Finals slated July 30-31 at the Festival Mall.

Events on tap in the Baguio leg are the seniors and girls divisions and the juniors and midgets categories.

The chase for top honors in the extreme half-court game of street basketball was expected to be intense, with the winners also gaining a crack at the Asian Streetball Finals.

Co-presented by Globe Gentxt, the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge 2005 is backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

Six other regional qualifiers are slated in the next seven weeks, including the Iloilo leg on May 20 which kicks off the three-stage Visayan swing, while the Mindanao regional elims will start June 24 in Cagayan de Oro.

Here's the rest of the competition schedule: Bacolod, June 4, Univ. of St. La Salle; Cebu, June 17-19, SM Cebu; Cagayan de Oro, June 24, Pelaez Gym; Zamboanga, July 2, Ateneo de Zamboanga; and Davao July 12-14, NCCC.

For inquiries, call Team Ventures at 5225953 and 4009745.

Winners of the regional tourneys will join the NCR qualifiers in the national finals, with the champions in various divisions to represent the country in the Asian adidas Streetball finals next September in Manila.

Forest Hills adopts new concepts for member-guest invitational

THE ANNUAL Forest Hills Invitational, a two-man event featuring club members and their guests, will adopt exciting concepts during the tournament which tees off May 18 to 21 at the Jack Nicklaus-designed course in Antipolo City.

Sports and Games committee chair Victor De Guzman said there will be a Tandem Raffle in which the other half of a pair will get the same prize, except the grand prize, won by his playing partner during the draw.

The partner of the winner of the biggest prize, a Hyundai Getz, from Hyundai E. Rodriguez, will get a 43-inch projection TV worth about P100,000.

About 350 players are entered in the tourney that also has Pacsports, Sun Cellular, Golforce Inc. and Wheels Distributor as presenters.

Turf Co., and Citibank are major sponsors, while Alexi's Jewelers, Asian Spirit, Coppertone-Schering Plough, Esprit Timewears, Federal Chemicals, Gourmet Link, Group Management Dev., Jewelmer, Lipovitan, Mega Primus, MRT Dev. Co., Seaboard-Eastern Insurance, Solar Sports, Splash Island, Sports Specialists Worldwide, and Zest-O are the other backers.

The committee also said that prizes await the flightmates of anyone who makes an ace.

The Invitational is also adopting the "Piligan," an offshoot of the Mulligan.

Boom-Boom vs Mex moved to June 11

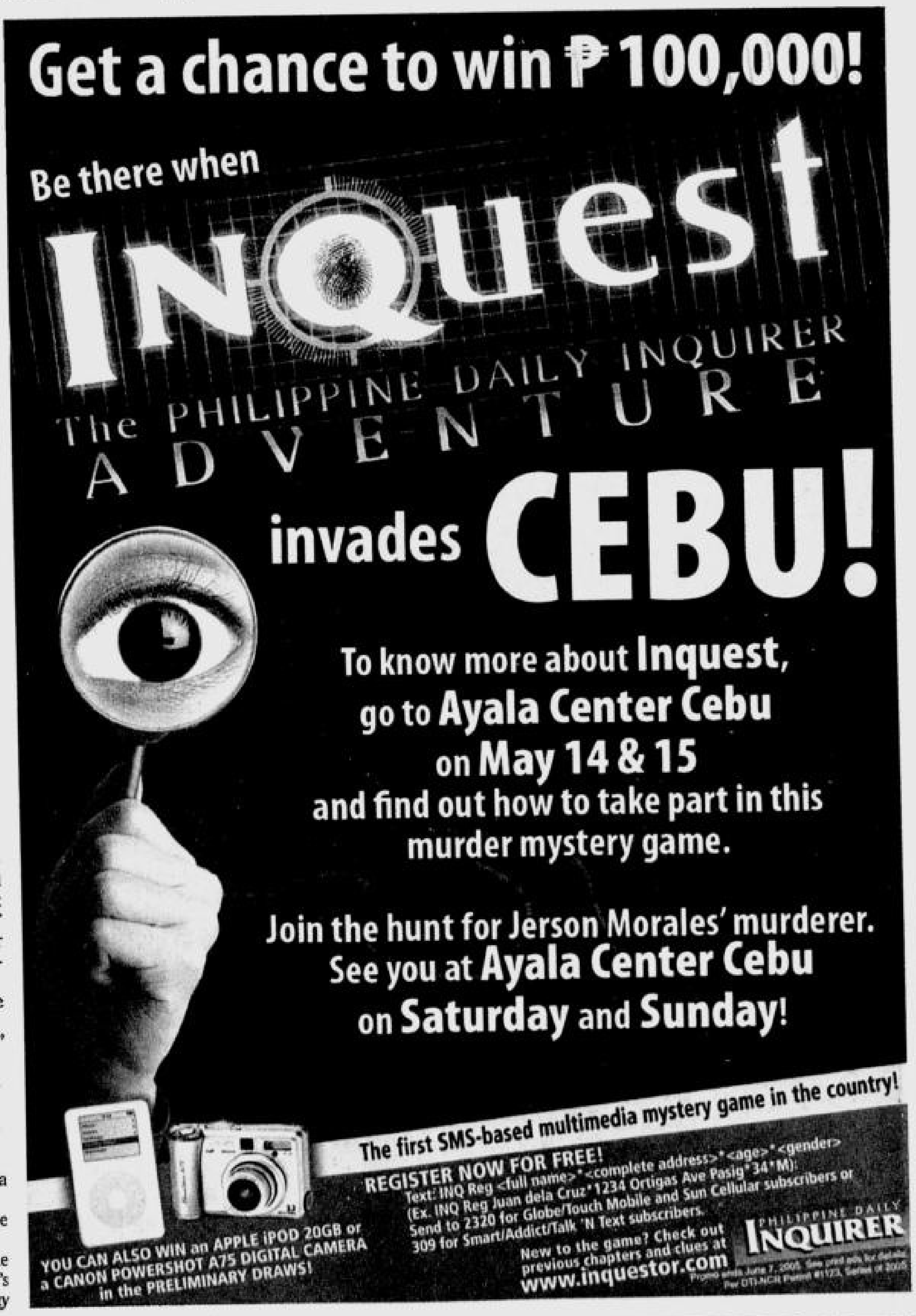
REY "Boom-Boom" Bautista's much-awaited battle against Mexico's Gilberto Bolanos at the air-conditioned Mandaue Sports Complex has been moved to June 11 after the fast-rising WBO Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion suffered an eyebrow cut in training.

The cut was only minor, but chief trainer Edito Villamor said he did not want to take any chances and asked for a week's postponement.

"Knowing that the Mexican is a heavy-hitter, a punch could reopen the cut," warned Villamor.

The 27-year-old Mexican carries a fearsome record with all his wins coming by knockout.

"Bolanos is one fighter who loses his fight if he fails to knock out his opponents," said the card's promoter Sammy Gello-ani. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



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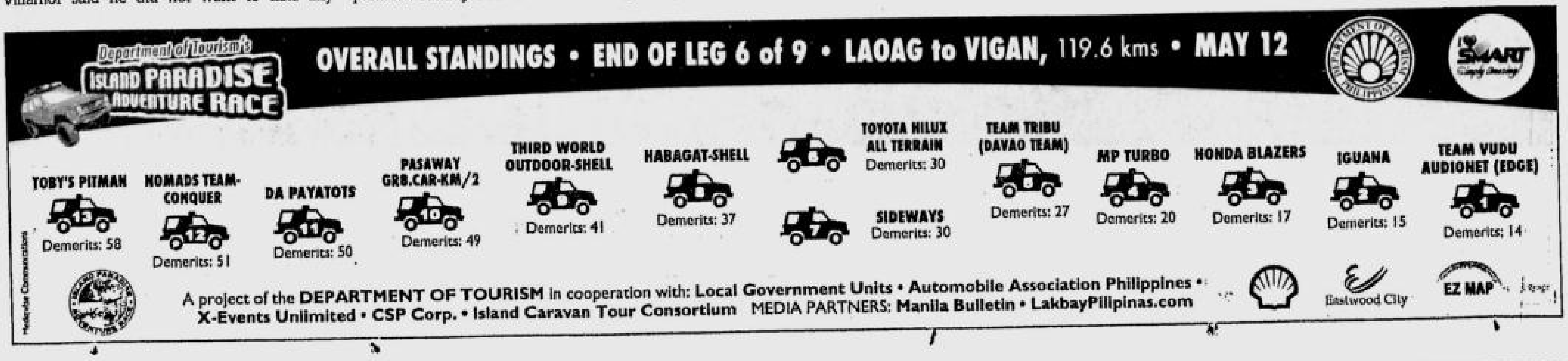

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Team	Demerits
TOBY'S PITMAN	58
NOMADS TEAM-CONQUER	51
DA PAYATOTS	50
PASAWAY GR8.CAR-KM/2	49
THIRD WORLD OUTDOOR-SHELL	41
HABAGAT-SHELL	37
TOYOTA HILUX ALL TERRAIN	30
SIDEWAYS	30
TEAM TRIBU (DAVAO TEAM)	27
MP TURBO	20
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Shaq-less Miami still hot; Seattle cools San Antonio

WASHINGTON—Shaquille O'Neal didn't play, and Dwyane Wade committed five turnovers in the first quarter. Still, the Miami Heat kept their perfect postseason intact.

Five Miami players scored in a 13-0 third-quarter run that swung the game, and Wade steadied himself to finish with 31 points, nine rebounds and six assists, leading a 102-95 victory over the Washington Wizards on Thursday. That gave the Heat a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"I was ordered by the powers-that-be to take it easy," O'Neal said. "I looked bad the other night in the fourth quarter, and they didn't want it to get any worse. They have confidence in the team and so do I. The team just played fabulous today."

"We feel we've got another notch we can go to," Wade said. "We took a step in that direction, especially without Shaq. The sky's the limit for this team."

"What we have to really do without Shaq is buckle down defensively," said Heat coach Stan Van Gundy. "It is a lot harder for us to score.

The Heat, 7-0 in the postseason, can complete their second straight sweep on Saturday night.

The deep thigh bruise that has bothered O'Neal for weeks finally caused him to miss a playoff game for the first time in his career, ending a streak of 164 consecutive postseason appearances. But 35-year-old Alonzo Mourning started for O'Neal and continued his postseason renaissance with 14 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks, including a rejection of Larry Hughes' layup attempt in the final minute.

"I've worked my butt off for this type of opportunity," Mourning said, "and I'm anxious to see the reward at the end."

"This is not a one- or two-man team, no matter who is out," Mourning added. "We're continuing to prove people wrong."

"It's just a different set of problems with Alonzo in there," Wizards coach Eddie Jordan said.

Eddie Jones and Damon Jones added 16 points apiece, and Udonis Haslem had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Wade made 14 of 27 shots and finished with eight turnovers.

But the sophomore guard went 5-of-12 in the first half with 12 points and six turnovers and was miserable in the locker room at halftime with the Wizards leading 51-49.

"I was very upset," Wade said. "I was angry and down on myself. It wasn't that Shaq wasn't there. I had the shot but I didn't want to take it. I was getting indecisive."

O'Neal boosted Wade's spirits with a show of faith.

"He just told me I was the best player on the floor, go play like it," Wade said.

Mourning made a similar pep talk before the second half.

"Words can't express what Dwyane Wade means," Mourning said. "I told him, 'We're looking to you to lead us. We've ridden your coattails this far, we're going to keep on riding.'"

Gilbert Arenas scored 20 points and set a franchise playoff record with 14 assists for the Wizards.

"We still think we can beat them," said Arenas. "We have to win four in a row but we're only focusing on the next one."

"We're not going to give up just because it's 0-3," he added.

SuperSonics 92, Spurs 91

In Seattle, Ray Allen's 20 points and Vitaly Potapenko's big defensive stop were just enough to gibe Seattle a win over San Antonio.

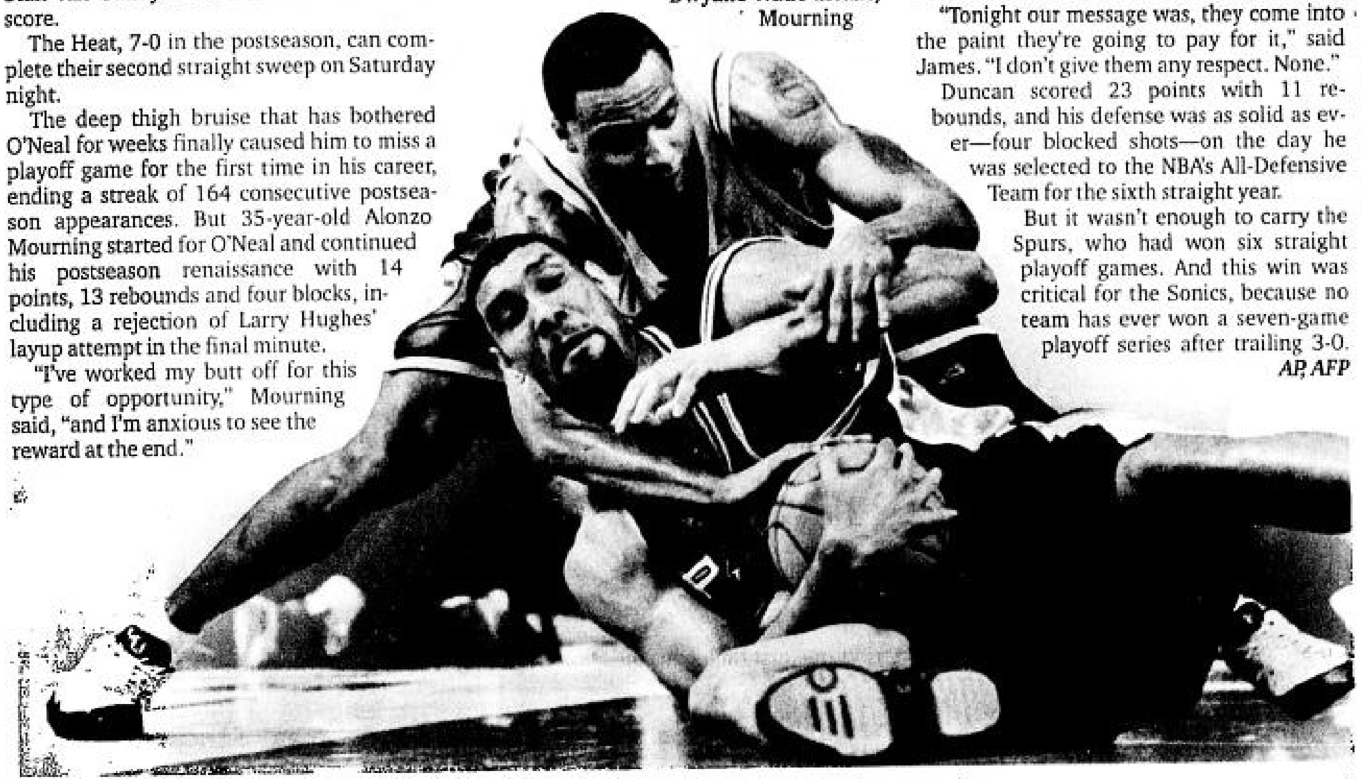
Allen had an impact despite going scoreless in the final period and Potapenko forced Tim Duncan into a missed 4-footer at the final horn. Reserve Antonio Daniels had 18 points and eight rebounds, and Jerome James scored 15 points on 7-of-7 shooting from the floor, helping the Sonics pull to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series. Game 4 is Sunday in Seattle.

"Tonight our message was, they come into the paint they're going to pay for it," said James. "I don't give them any respect. None."

Duncan scored 23 points with 11 rebounds, and his defense was as solid as ever—four blocked shots—on the day he was selected to the NBA's All-Defensive Team for the sixth straight year.

But it wasn't enough to carry the Spurs, who had won six straight playoff games. And this win was critical for the Sonics, because no team has ever won a seven-game playoff series after trailing 3-0.

AP, AFP



SAN ANTONIO superstar Tim Duncan (bottom) battles Seattle forward Rashard Lewis for possession.

AP

ALONZO Mourning stuffs a monster dunk.

Wallace heads defen

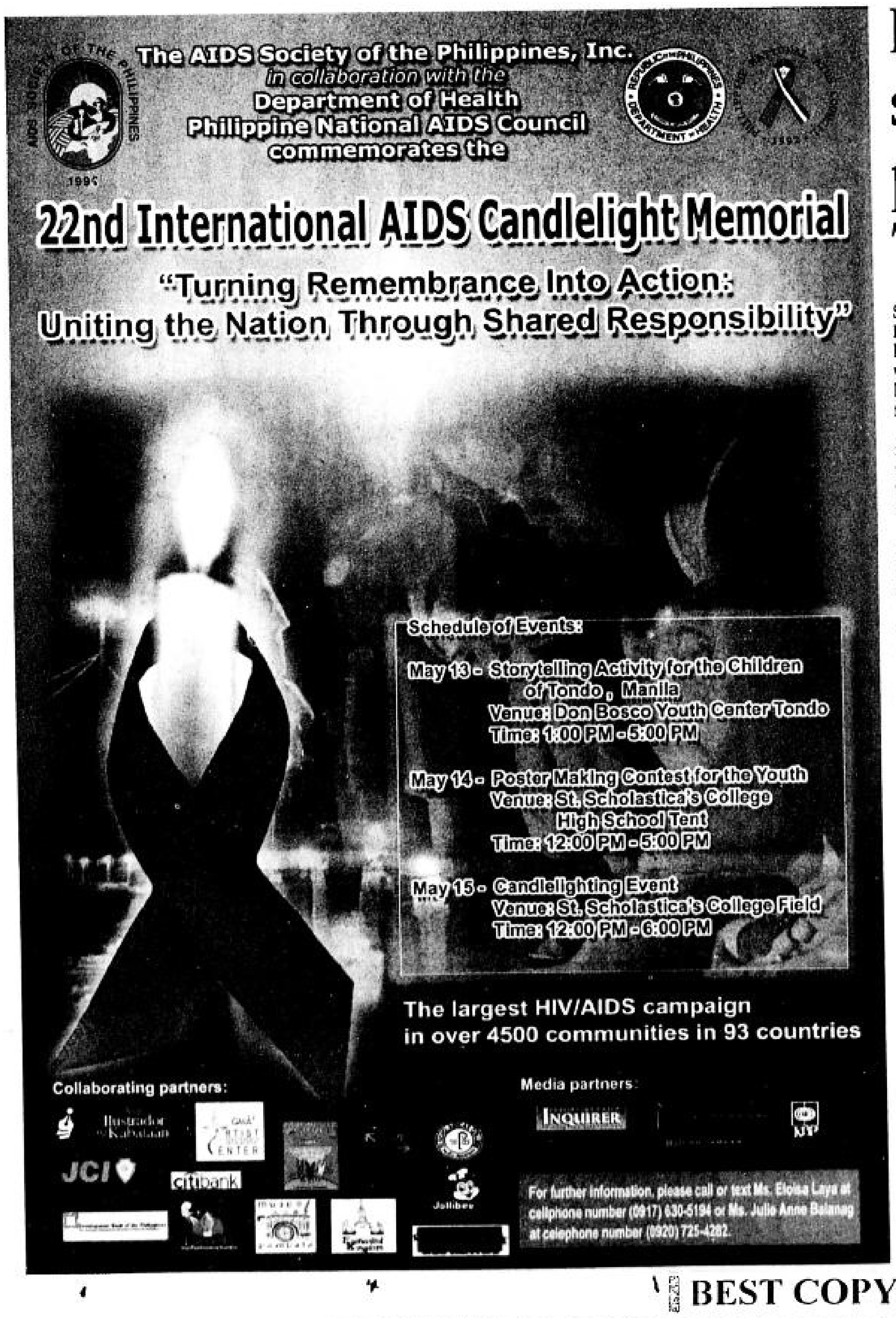
NEW YORK—Center Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons, previously selected Defensive Player of the Year for the third time, heads the NBA's All-Defensive team.

Wallace, making his fourth consecutive appearance on the first team, was joined on Thursday by forward Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves, forwards Tim Duncan and Bruce Bowen of the San Antonio Spurs, and guard Larry Hughes of the Washington Wizards.

Duncan was selected to the first team for the sixth time in a row, as was Garnett. Bowen made it for the second straight year. Hughes made the team for the first time.

The second team consists of forward Tayshaun Prince and guard Chauncey Billups of Detroit, Denver Nuggets center Marcus Camby, Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko, New Jersey Nets guard Jason Kidd, and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade. Kidd and Wade tied in the voting, giving the second team six players.

Selections were made by the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Time: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

May 15 - Candlelighting Event
Venue: St. Scholastica's College Field
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Rival's strategy puzzles Tszyu

SYDNEY—World champion Kostya Tszyu says British challenger Ricky Hatton doesn't know what he is doing with his weight loss strategy ahead of their title fight in Manchester next month.

The Russian-born Australian is into the final stages of his preparation for the June 5 title bout and went on a strict fat and sugar-free diet two months before the fight.

Unbeaten Hatton was this week reportedly two kilograms over the weight limit and Tszyu, the 35-year-old International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior welterweight champion, said he was puzzled by Hatton's preparation.

"He's not stabilizing himself. He doesn't know what he's doing," Tszyu said Friday.

"He's burning off. He's ahead of his training because it's big pressure for him. He doesn't really know what to do. That's how I see it," said Tszyu, who is sticking with the same routine he has followed for years.

"I'm doing everything proper," he said.

Tszyu has been in devastating sparring form in the gym, dropping world ranked junior welterweight Kendall Holt in their final session.

He has already logged more than 100 rounds of sparring and expects that number to ultimately exceed 150 leading into the fight.

"The accuracy is already there. There's still three weeks to go. But I can be sharper and I know that I can still be faster and hit harder," said Tszyu, who leaves for England on May 21.

Tszyu is rated one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in world boxing with 31 wins, 25 by knockout, one loss and one no-contest in his 13-year professional career. *AFP*

Perennial under finds his Wright

LAS VEGAS—For years, Winky Wright roamed the world fighting in other boxer's backyards.

He slept in beds that were too small, fought in places he couldn't pronounce, and took what he could from a boxing world that wanted little to do with a slick southpaw with a habit of making his opponents look bad.

Once, Wright even had his title taken away in the dressing room after a fight in South Africa, when officials decided there had been a mistake in adding up the ringside scorecards.

"I was fighting in France and other places for years," Wright said. "Now look at me."

Indeed, now is a good time to look at Wright. He meets Felix Trinidad in a middleweight nontitle fight on Saturday at the MGM Grand hotel-casino that will not only pay him more money than he ever dreamed, but give him the opportunity to finally prove himself to the world.

It's been a long time coming for someone who fought 13 years before he even made his debut amid the big lights of Las Vegas.

"I knew it would eventually happen because they could keep running but they couldn't hide," Wright said. "I'm here now and they have to fight me."

For that, Wright can th
Shane Mosley, who made th
explicable decision to fight
last year rather than take mill
for a third fight with Oscar D
Hoya. Wright became the u
puted 69-kilogram (154-pou
champion with a decision
Mosley in March 2004, and
repeated the win with a maj
decision when they met for a
ond time last November.

Now Wright is chan
weight classes for the first tin
his career, moving up to 72
grams (160 pounds) for a lu
tive fight against the big pu
ing Trinidad.

He'll make his biggest pay
by far—$4 million—and
happy to get it despite the
Trinidad will make $10 mil
Wright also got something el
his contract—a rematch cl
that will pay him even
should he beat Trinidad.

"I'm taking less money bu
cool. I'm still making money
most people never make in t
lives," Wright said. "We d
make the $10 million like
but the next fight we're goin
make everything."

Trinidad, who came out o
tirement to stop Ricardo May
in the eighth round in Octob

Four-hour endur

THE 3RD Invitational Endurocross blasts off tomorrow inside the Sta. Lucia Palo Alto racetrack in Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal.

The endurocross is a four-hour, non-stop endurance race with two-man teams negotiating a kilometer of a motocross track and another six kilometers of a mountain trail route.

"Our last event last April was a smashing success and we vowed to come up with a bigger, better staging this time," said Nani Pazc
president of the organizing
"I'm sure all the participants a
cited no end and are ready to
ble on Sunday."

Top motorcycle riders fro
over the country, plus s
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to take part in the one-day e
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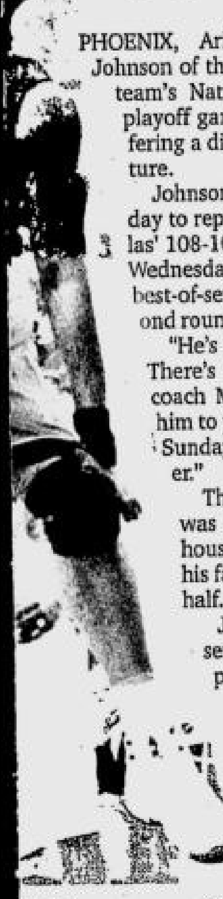
Injured ace rkens Suns' layoff hopes vs Dallas


EUTERS

PHOENIX, Arizona—Starting guard Joe Johnson of the Phoenix Suns will miss the team's National Basketball Association playoff game Friday at Dallas after suffering a displaced left orbital bone fracture.

Johnson underwent surgery Thursday to repair the injury, suffered in Dallas' 108-106 victory over the Suns here Wednesday, a triumph that evened their best-of-seven Western Conference second round series at one triumph each.

"He's an integral part of our team. There's no doubt about that," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "I expect him to play in this series, whether it's Sunday (in game four) or whenever."

The injury came when Johnson was fouled by Dallas' Jerry Stackhouse on a dunk attempt and hit his face on the floor late in the first half.

Johnson stayed on the court for several minutes, had bandages placed on a cut around his left eye and made 1-of-2 free throws before being escorted to the locker room.

Johnson averaged 21.2 points in Phoenix's first five play-off games and 17.1 points and 5.2 rebounds a game during the regular season. *AFP*

BYRON NELSON

Appleby back, leads elite field

IRVING, Texas—Stuart Appleby birdied his first two holes in rolling to a 7-under 63 and a one-shot lead over John Daly, Ernie Els and Brett Wetterich in the Byron Nelson Championship first round on Thursday.

Els showed not much has changed since winning by a career-high 13 shots two weeks ago in Shanghai, playing with Vijay Singh and without a bogey on the TPC at Las Colinas course for a 64.

Daly was on the easier Cottonwood Valley course and described his 64 as "mediocre" and "comfortable." That included a chip-in for birdie behind the 12th green, and holing out a bunker shot on No. 3 for birdie. The only glitch was a three-putt bogey that denied him a share of the lead, but he's not one to complain.

"That was the only bad thing today," Daly said. "When I can say that on 18 holes, that's pretty good."

Singh, a winner in two of his last three tournaments, at times made it look easy with seven birdies.

But he dropped five shots along the way, once catching the lip of a fairway bunker and leaving himself buried in deep grass.

He rallied for two birdies on the final three holes for a 68.

"I played six, seven holes pretty good and six, seven holes pretty badly and six, seven holes OK," Singh said.

Tiger Woods had only two holes under par—a 6-foot eagle on the par-5 seventh, and a 30-foot birdie on the 18th—to offset two bogeys for a 69.

"I just couldn't make any putts," said Woods, who missed only four greens but took 32 putts.

Phil Mickelson had 17 pars and took 31 putts in a round of 69, while US Open champion Retief Goosen shot 70.

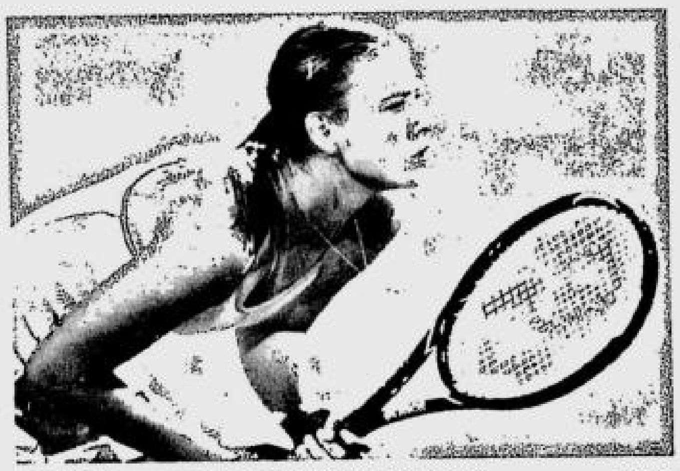
If it seems like Appleby has disappeared since winning the season-opening Mercedes Championships, he has a reason. His wife gave birth to their first child in January, and he has played only seven times this year, about four below his typical schedule.

The 63 was only his fourth sub-par round since Hawaii, although the Aussie was not surprised.

"I play on the (US) PGA Tour," he said. "That's what you're supposed to be able to do, isn't it?" *AP*

JOHN Daly throws his putter in disgust. AFP

Sharapova, Mauresmo advance in Italy


MARIA Sharapova inches closer to the No. 1 spot. REUTERS

ROME—Top-seeded Maria Sharapova knocked out 1997 champion Mary Pierce, 7-6 (4), 6-4, in the third round of the Italian Open on Thursday.

Defending champion Amelie Mauresmo advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 win over 13th-seeded Silvia Farina Elia of Italy, and will meet four-time Italian Open winner Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova next faces fellow Russian Elena Bovina, the No. 9 seed, who edged Paola Suarez of Argentina, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Martinez advanced when seventh-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia pulled out before their match with a right thigh strain.

Sixth-seeded Vera Zvonareva defeated Colombia's Catalina Castano 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, No. 8 Patty Schnyder dispatched Ana Ivanovic of Serbia-Montenegro 6-3, 6-2.

Italy's Francesca Schiavone upset 15th-seeded Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-3, 7-5 to follow her upset win over Serena Williams on Wednesday, and Evgenia Linetskaya overcame Gisela Dulko of Argentina 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 to place four Russians in the last eight.

Linetskaya will play Schnyder, and Zvonareva faces Schiavone.

Sharapova squandered a 5-2 lead over Pierce. But two-time major champion Pierce hit backhands into the net to let Sharapova take control of the tiebreak, winning it 7-4. In the second set, Sharapova had four breaks of serve to Pierce's two.

"I let her back in the match when I was up 5-2. Mary's a tough opponent. She won the (2000) French Open, so obviously she knows how to play on clay," Sharapova said after the two-hour match. *AP*

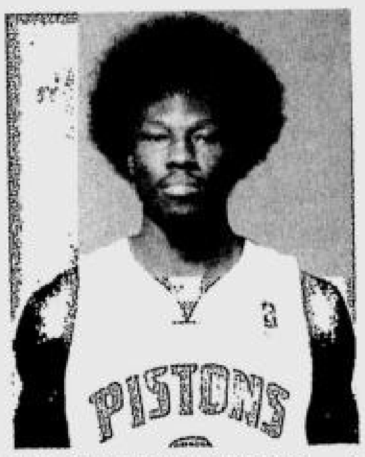
sive team

league's 30 head coaches. They were not permitted to vote for players from their own team.

Wallace anchored the Pistons' defense this season, just as he did in last year's title run when he led the frontline committee assigned to defend against Los Angeles Lakers superstar center Shaquille O'Neal.

Detroit defeated Los Angeles for the title last year.

The Pistons are currently battling fierce rival Indiana in the Eastern conference playoffs. *AP*



WALLACE: Defense is his game. AP

Federer ousts Robredo; Gaudio loses

HAMBURG, Germany—Top-ranked Roger Federer moved closer to his sixth title of the year when he beat Tommy Robredo, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the quarterfinals of the Hamburg Masters on Thursday.

Christophe Rochus of Belgium came from behind to upset fourth-seeded Gaston Gaudio, last year's French Open champion, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina rallied to beat fifth-seeded Tim Henman, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, and French teenager Richard Gasquet routed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 6-1, 6-2, in 52 minutes.

Chela will next play Rochus, who turned the tables on Gaudio on his sixth set point in the second. He squandered two match points before Gaudio hit a shot long.

Gaudio's Argentine countryman Guillermo Coria downed Mario Ancic of Croatia, 6-4, 6-3, and 15th-seeded Nikolay Davydenko of Russia came back to defeat former No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Andreas Seppi of Italy beat Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-4, and will meet Gasquet in the quarterfinals, ensuring that at least one qualifier will make it to the semis.

"This is my first quarterfinal and this tournament is becoming special," said Seppi, a third-year pro who speaks fluent German.

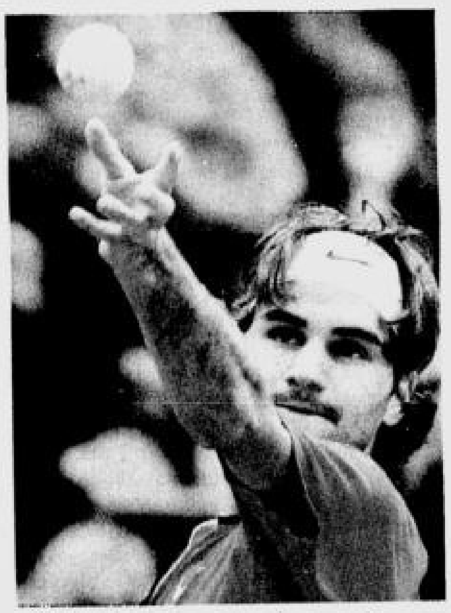
Seppi's fellow Italian, Filippo Volandri, beat Sebastien Grosjean of France 6-3, 6-4 and ensured two Italians made it to the quarters for the first time since the Masters Series one tier below the Grand Slams, was created in 1990. Volandri next plays Davydenko.

Federer, the defending Hamburg champion, ended the match with a volley winner, finishing with 21 winners to only five for the 14th-seeded Robredo.

"I always felt I was in control, I always felt I could vary my game, come to the net when I needed," Federer said.

The win hiked Federer's record for the year to 38-2. He is playing his first event after a three-week break to rest swollen feet, and will next meet Coria, in a repeat of last year's final.

Coria reached the previous two Masters Series finals on clay—in Monte Carlo and Rome—losing both times to Rafael Nadal. *AP*


ROGER Federer serves up a big match. AP

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r, is

a fearsome and deadly accurate puncher who can stop a fighter with either hand. Wright, on the other hand, doesn't pack a big punch but is a good inside puncher with good defensive skills.

Oddsmakers make Trinidad an 8-5 favorite largely because of his punching power, but Wright isn't concerned. He's been an underdog before, in a lot worse places.

"I'm not worried about Tito's punches. He's got to worry about my jab, and my outthinking him," Wright said.

Wright's trainer, Dan Birmingham, offered a sneak preview into his boxer's strategy by saying he studied Trinidad's win over De La Hoya and his loss to Bernard Hopkins in figuring out how to fight him.

De La Hoya boxed Trinidad beautifully in the early rounds before fading and losing a disputed decision, while Hopkins picked Trinidad apart in the later rounds to give the Puerto Rican boxing icon his only loss.

Wright (48-3, 25 knockouts) said he'll know early whether his style is going to match up with Trinidad.

"The first round will tell everything," he said. "If you see me come back to the corner smiling, it's going to be an easy night." *AP*

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The opening race will be attended by Rizal Vice Gov. Jestoni Alarcon, Sta. Lucia Realty's Exequiel Robles and Mayor Willy Robles of Baras, Rizal.

Baseball: Chicago defeats Baltimore

CHICAGO—Jon Garland became the American League's first seven-game winner Thursday, allowing eight hits in eight innings as the Chicago White Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles, 3-2, to run their record to 26-9.

"He's more mature and has more confidence in his pitches," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "We've given him the opportunity to be who he is, he thought about it and he's performed."

Garland (7-0) won his seventh straight start and stopped an Orioles' eighth-inning rally by striking out Miguel Tejada with runners on the corners.

"It was one of the best pitches I threw all night. There are some RBIs out there for him and he wants to swing the bat and hit. He swung over the top of it." Garland said of the eighth-inning strikeout.

Dustin Hermanson pitched the ninth for his seventh save in as many opportunities. Hermanson has yet to allow a run this season, spanning 15 appearances.

AJ Pierzynski and Juan Uribe homered for the White Sox, who led, 3-0, after three innings. Rafael Palmeiro hit a solo homer for the Orioles in the fifth.

Pitting the teams with the best records in the majors, the opener of the four-game set drew 29,031 on a 53-degree night at US Cellular Field.

Royals 7, Devil Rays 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City got its first win since Tony Pena resigned as manager in the rain-shortened game against Tampa Bay.

Emil Brown and John Buck each drove in two runs for the Royals, who blew a 5-0 lead then scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth. *AP*

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Import's wife 'dissappears'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THE STA. LUCIA Realtors were in high spirits as they boarded the big, red tourist bus that would take them back to Manila from Lucena where they posted their eighth win in the Gran Matador Fiesta Cup by beating Coca Cola Thursday night.

Overall, it had been a good provincial trip for the Realtors. PBA chair Buddy Encarnado had taken the team for an overnight stay at the South Waters Marina Country Club and Farm co-owned by Sta. Lucia and the Morato family, where they relaxed, swam and fished.

* * *

On the way home after dinner at Max's, the bus made a stop at a *sari-sari* store to buy some ice and cold drinks. For some reason, several people got off the bus, among them import Ryan Fletcher's wife Sarah who proceeded to walk by herself along the side-road, away from the rest and away from the bus.

***"Kitang-kita ko po habang naglalakad, nagtataka nga ako kung saan pupunta. Tapos, pumikit lang ako, bigla na lang nawala. Parang nilamon ng kadiliman,"* related the bus driver.**

The other guys must have heard her cry for help, because they all rushed to her direction. The driver saw a pair of hands waving from the ground. He couldn't make out what he was seeing.

They all found Sarah trapped inside a pit deeper than her full height. Her eyesight was so bad, she didn't notice the hole in the darkness.

Immediately, she was pulled up by about about a dozen pairs of muscled hands. But as soon as she got to her feet, she fainted and lay prostrate on the ground, incurring two abrasions on her lovely face.

* * *

At the nearby Liwag Medical Clinic, the doctors treated Sarah's facial wounds and examined her for possible major fractures. They found none, but still advised her to undergo a more thorough examination when she gets to Manila.

From there, Sta. Lucia team manager Atty. Ariel Magno volunteered to take the Fletchers home in his car. He also picked up Sarah's medical bill.

Ryan swore he would take his wife to the eye clinic where she was long overdue for a laser treatment as soon as she was over her shock.

* * *

While all the invited guests had a great time at the dinner party hosted last Tuesday night at the Diamond Hotel by RP team manager Ramon S. Ang, the ones who had the most fun were the Sydney Kings who were treated to a sumptuous seafood/Japanese buffet feast that included giant prawns and sea-fresh oysters in a bed of salt, and the best drinks in the house.

A most gracious host, Mr. Ang, made everyone feel at home, from the scribes, to the players to the visitors, who must have been amazed at the Filipino brand of hospitality.

For his part, San Miguel's head honcho must have been equally awed at the Australians' brand of play because he sat down with the ballclub owner, and much later his team officials, at length, discussing basketball, for which the SMC prexy/CEO has great passion and knowledge, or so I was told. He even urged RP coach Chot Reyes and his staff to join the talks, "because we might be able to learn something."

After all, the Kings had swept the two-game series against the RP training pool without much effort.

* * *

One scribe who stayed behind long after I had left said the visitors must have felt so at home with Filipino hospitality, they took the liberty of ordering the most expensive drink in the house, costing several thousands per order and served only to visiting heads of state and the few who could afford.

The scribe admitted he has never tasted the stuff, neither does he remember the name.

"And would you believe that instead of asking one of the waiters, they handed their camera to a high-ranking SMC official for him to take a souvenir photo of the Sydney team?"

Oh well, nobody's perfect. At least the Australians gave a good account of themselves inside the court. I guess that's what matters most.

New Adventure leader emerges in Ilocos

UILLAC Diaz of Honda-Petron Blazers races through a marked course on an all-terrain vehicle at Fort Ilocandia in Laoag City. MELO VILLAREAL

By Jasmine W. Payo

VIGAN CITY—Crucial demerits jarred the standings and a surprise leader emerged as the gruelling Island Paradise Adventure Race hit this quaint city in Ilocos Sur. Team Edge, runner-up in the last stage, wrested the top spot from Team Iguana on Day 6.

After leading the 13-team caravan for three straight days, Team Iguana's Andrew Chinalpan Jr., Orville Bernabe and Dennis Ararao appeared set to top the P1 million challenge. However, the veteran adventure racers absorbed a big blow when race officials slapped Iguana with 15 demerit points on Thursday.

The crucial penalty was assessed after Iguana inadvertently drove their Nissan Frontier against traffic at the Vigan City Plaza, the pit stop in the Ilocos Sur leg of the nine-day auto rally.

Team Edge's Nonoy Jopson, Niño Abarquez and Quinito Moras preserved their 14-point total after suffering no demerit in the last three stages, while Team Iguana remained within striking distance with a 15-point overall total.

But Jopson, a record-holder in national triathlon, wasn't too happy with the turn of events.

"There was completely an element of luck," said Jopson after Edge claimed the lead for the first time in a Ford Ranger. "Even if we win now, it's not because we were better than other teams. We were just luckier. We want our win to be completely up to us. We want to earn it."

Model Illac Diaz and brothers Marc and JC Leviste of Honda-Petron Blazers incurred two demerit points but kept the third spot for a 17-point finish in a Honda CRV.

Ace formula car driver Mike Potenciano along with Hundred Island Adventure Race winners Bryan and JT Gonzales of MP Turbo bumped off Team Sideways from fourth place after tallying 20 overall demerit points in their Toyota Hilux.

Despite Team Edge's controversial lead, Jopson noted that his team did very well in the physical challenges, particularly in the all-terrain vehicle race at Fort Ilocandia in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

Racers were flagged off at a Shell station in Laoag City and competed in physical and mental tasks at designated checkpoints, including the calesa ride contest and the sinanglaw (a spicy Ilocano delicacy) eating challenge at the Heritage Village in Vigan City; and the clue search at the Sinking Bell Tower in Laoag City and Sarrat Town Hall in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

Alaminos, Pangasinan will be the next pit stop of this Luzon race, which has already reached the 1,441-km mark.

Bata, Amang renew 9-ball pool rivalry

REYES: Underdog?

PARICA: Out to prove a point

JOSE "Amang" Parica gets the chance to prove his claim that he has Efren "Bata" Reyes' number when the All Filipino Open II 9-ball billiards is held from May 19-22 at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

"I'm 5-0 against him (Reyes) in the finals," Parica said. "*Basta sa laban namin ako ang nananalo* 70 percent of the time (In our fights, I won 70 percent of the time)."

The 56-year-old Parica was actually the last champion of three legitimate All-Filipino Open tournaments—twice in the '80s and the last one in 1993, when he beat Eduardo "Pikoy" Villanueva in the finals, with Reyes finishing third.

Since then, Parica and Reyes have parted ways. Though it was Parica who blazed the trail for Filipino cue masters in the United States it was Reyes who caught the Americans' fancy with his improbable shots and uncanny analytical ability.

The 50-year-old Reyes has since been inducted into the billiards Hall of Fame for winning numerous international titles, including the 1999 World Pool Championship.

Out to spoil the revival of the Bata-Amang rivalry are reigning titlist Francisco "Django" Bustamante and reigning world champion Alex Pagulayan.

Bustamante and Pagulayan figured in the finals of last year's edition with the former coming from behind to win his first All-Filipino crown.

Pool enthusiasts and home-viewers can catch them in action through Jemah Television from 8:30-10:30 p.m. on IBC-13 for the four-day tourney.

Joining the quartet in the main draw of the tournament are fellow world-beaters Gandy Valle, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, Warren Kiamco and Ramil Gallego.

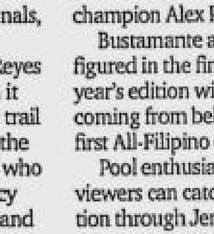
The event is sanctioned by the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, supported by Puyat Sports boss and billiards "godfather" Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Jemah Television chair and CEO Marc Roces.

Parica, Reyes and company will be joined by the top eight players in the qualifying phase, which will be held on May 12-13 at the Bowling Inn.

The tournament will use the double knockout system and alternate break format.

At stake in the tournament managed by Rolly Vicente and Ish Caparas is P1 million with the champ getting P500,000.

Battle of generations spices up Champs League finals



GABICA

INTERESTING matches spice up the championship duel between National Capital Region champion Makati and provincial top-notcher Team Pampanga when the TM Philippine 9-Ball Champions League crossover final kicks off Monday at the SM Supermall in Manila.

Two generations of billiard greats come face-to-face as Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Victor Arpelleda and 2004 Philippine 9-Ball Open champion Antonio Gabica team up against two of the best players to come out of the Touch Mobile search for the future superstars of the game.

Jharome Peña of Team Makati, 22, and Jundel Mazon of Team Cavite, 28, are out to impress when they take on Arpelleda and Gabica.

Peña and Mazon are the leading contenders for the TM Taco Master Award, a side event in this meet presented by Touch Mobile, Brunswick, Accel, Aqua Ronz and SM Supermalls.

"This will be a real treat for billiards fans as the next generation of 9-ball players go up against the past and current champions," said Ramon Tuason of the organizing Rocketman Enterprises Inc.

Another race-to-seven match featuring the league's top two female players is also a must-see for billiard fans.

Toni Anne Nobleza of Team Cavite, frontrunner after three weeks in the TM individual award, battles Team Manila anchor Ruby Marces.

The TM 9-Ball, Ang Bagong Sibol League TV show, aired every Thursday and Friday, 930 p.m. over IBC-13 and hosted by Peter Martin and Pia Boren, will highlight these matches in their program.

SPORTSWATCH

Daymiels lead Davao b'minton finalists

SIBLINGS Ginalee and Ronald Daymiel trounced their respective rivals Thursday to book seats in the finals of the elite division of the JVC Regional Badminton Championships at the Wheels and More Drive in Bajada, Davao City. Ginalee routed Jacquelyn Abangan, 11-5, 11-0, to arrange a showdown for the ladies crown against Jovallyn Cabañero, who whipped Sheira Suico, 11-1, 11-8, in the other semifinal match. Ronald, on the other hand, overcame Vergelio Natan, 15-12, 15-10, to set up a clash for the men's crown against Julius Magallanes, who beat Michael Calixtro, 15-5, 15-3. The Daymiels, of Disston Premium Paints, teamed up later to outlast Ralph Cajandig and Donna Mendoza, 17-14, 15-3, to barge into the mixed doubles finals of this event sponsored by JVC Phils. Inc. and backed by Gosen, Cebu Pacific, Water Front Hotels, Lactacyd and Accel. They will play Jeffrey Quiben and Cabañero, who repulsed Magallanes and Bea Gonzales, 8-15, 15-9, 15-3, in the other semifinal encounter.

RC-Pasay stages Santos Cup at Alabang

THE ROTARY Club of Pasay will hold a charity golf tournament in honor of its most senior past president, industrialist Dante G. Santos, on May 17 at Alabang Country Club. Proceeds of the project will go to malnourished school children at its adopted public school, Apelo Cruz Elementary School, through the club's Build a Dream program, a Feeding and Tulong-Aral scholarship. Santos and his wife Ann Henrietta will be present in the awarding rites. Past presidents of RC-Pasay and its general membership are expected to grace the occasion, according to incoming president Bayani P. Nito and Hermogenes "Boy" P. Villareal, golf tournament committee adviser. Tee-off time is from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Pacquiao the Cocker challenges big guns

FRESH off his runner-up finish in a major Cebu hackfight, world boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao challenges Metro Manila's biggest cockfighters today in the 330 K Big Event Part II 6-Cock Derby at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Pacquiao will field a combination of imported fowls from Fresno, California, and the dreaded Red Roundheads of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio. Action in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 starts at 2 p.m. with more than 90 fights on tap. But ace gamebirds will also be fielded by his opponents, including Big Event Part I champion Dicky Lim and World Slashers champion Rey Briones. For inquiries, call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

Big Roligon 6-cocker kicks off today

DERBY champions from the provinces vie for top honors starting at 6 p.m. today in the Air Assault 6-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. More than 60 fights are scheduled in the event sponsored by the Ampil and Bacud brothers of Negros Occidental that serves as a big follow-up to the 277-entry Game Ka Na Ba derby last week. Admission is P300. Competing today are Wakee Salud of Cebu, Bebot Uy and Dorie Du of Davao, Rep. Elmer Codilla of Ormoc, Chito Tinsay of Iloilo, Erning Subia and Nelson Uy of Isabela, Otic Geroso, Nato Lacson, Arnold Mendoza and Dante Hinlo of Negros, Anthony Anggangco of Pangasinan and Gov. Joson of Nueva Ecija.

NBA Madness—NBA's interactive basketball lifestyle event—returns to Manila for the fifth time on June 2-5 to stage its biggest fan gig. The NBA has teamed up with Coca Cola, McDonald's, Solar Sports, Spalding and Araneta for the NBA Madness '05 which will bring to Manila Luke Walton of the LA Lakers and Dwight Howard of the Orlando Magic as well as the Houston Rockets Power Dancers. From left, Margot Torres of McDonald's, Peter Chanliong of Solar Sports, Philip Hayes Brown of Asia-Pacific: NBA Asia, Herman Medina-Cue of Coca Cola Export Corp. and Carlo Singson of NBA Asia Marketing.

Tough Navy pair vows to rule Petron volley again

NAVY'S Cecille Tabuena (left) and Michelle Laborte see bigger things as they team up again.

DETHRONED the last time by a Philippine Army pair, the Philippine Navy tandem of Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena vows to bounce back in the second leg of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament on May 15 and 16 at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Tabuena and Laborte, last year's Petron grand champions, went separate ways at the start of the quarterly tournament and played with a new set of partners.

Their strength diminished, they were overpowered by Armywomen Patricia Siatan and Jennifer Bohawe who went on to win the first leg of the 2005 series sponsored by Petron and organized by Tisha Abundo, a former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission.

"We tried if we could still dominate by going separate ways," said the power-spiking Laborte who is a standout, like Tabuena, of the University of St. La Salle in Iloilo.

"But eventually, we found out that we're better off playing side by side. We're confident we can bounce back."

But that is easier said than done in the two-day volleyball fiesta also backed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Toyota Pasong Tamo, Speedo (official outfitter) and Mikasa (official ball). That's because the field is getting stronger with each tournament.

The surprises could come from the Petron meet's cast composed of Erika Tiamzon and Rolyn Marquicias, Joan Carpio and Monica Aleta, Cecille Chavaz and Ailyn Ege, Joy Ongray and Liza Roxas, Acelyn Dubiao and Mari Micah Mariano, Ingrid Berayo and Joyce Ann Realeza, Diane Destajo and Jennifer Halos, Genevieve and Jennifer Lanuevo, Jackie Ann Montefrio and Lou Maranon.

The finals will be telecast on NBN-4 on a delayed basis courtesy of Abel Cruz of ALC Productions and Visible Video.

The winners will get P10,000.

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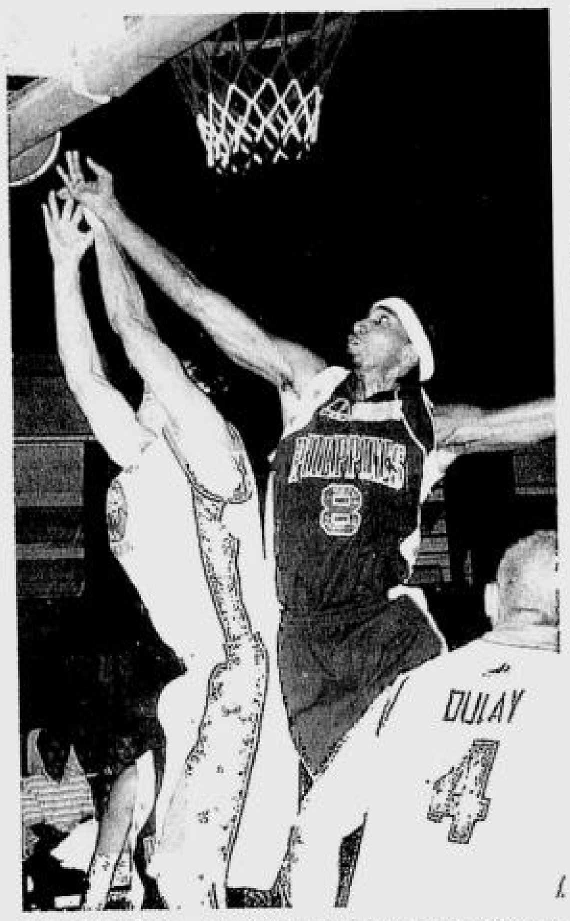
BAP training team stops Taguig's run



RP-BAP's KG Canaleta (8) blocks the undergoal attempt of Taguig's Leo Villar in Panasonic-NBC action at the CP Tinga gym in Taguig. Also in picture is Taguig guard Donald Dulay (4).

TAGUIG—The BAP-RP team blasted Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig, 86-70, Thursday night in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the CP Tinga gym here.

Playmaker Dennis Madrid sizzled as the Nationals, who are preparing for the Seaba championship in Singapore next month, opened their attack with 13 unanswered points and maintained their deadly pace throughout to snap Taguig's two-game winning run.

"We just try to be as consistent," said head coach Boysie Zamar, whose team, then backed by Cebuana Lhuillier, was chastised after losing to the Parañaque Jets in the NBC pre-season tourney final.

Over at the MSU-IIT gym in Iligan City, Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Iligan Crusaders also waxed hot from the start to spoil the debut of Iloilo Basketball League president Robert Uy's Iloilo Warriors, 68-57.

The Crusaders led by as many as 23 points, 50-27, en route to their second win in three games in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Spring Cooking Oil, Philtranco, Accel, Molten, Sunbolt, Nature's Spring, Far Easter Insurance, Skygo Motorycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Action resumes today with the Warriors facing unbeaten Ozamiz Cotta at 6 p.m. at the Gov. Angel Medina Jr. gym in Ozamiz and the Jets of Vice Mayor and actor/TV host Anjo Yllana taking on Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite also at 6 p.m. at the Merville Park gym in Parañaque.

The scores:

RP-BAP 86—Madrid 21, Villamin 14, Melencio 9, Canaleta 8, Ferrer 7, Latoreno 6, Eman 4, Moore 5, Dela Rosa 4, Sanz 4, Cantonjos 2.

TAGUIG 70—Sinco 13, Ricafuerte 11, Robillos 11, Zablan 10, Vilar 6, Dela Rosa 5, De Castro 4, Marucot 3, Dulay 2, De Gula 2, Reguera 1, Lapinid 1, Gonzales 1, Aclon 0.

Quarters: 24-16, 41-28, 63-40, 86-70.

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Olympic champ due for Inquirer Expo

HIDAYAT

TAUFIK Hidayat, the Indonesian who electrified the Athens Olympics by winning the men's singles gold medal last year, is due to arrive for the Toby's exhibition match in the Inquirer Badminton Expo Year 2 slated May 20-22 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall 2.

The 24-year-old Hidayat will be flying in together with Yonex All-England champion Hafiz Hashim, the world No. 9 also considered as one of the hottest badminton players at the moment with recent wins in the Thailand and Swiss Opens.

They will be playing against members of the national team bound for the Southeast Asian Games the country is hosting this December in what should be a major side-event of the Expo which is co-presented by Inquirer Badminton and Toby's Sports in cooperation with adidas.

The exhibition games will be played from 4 to 6 p.m. on May 21 and 22.

Major sponsors are Mizuno, Gosen, SM Megatrade Hall, Epson and Unilever. Minor sponsors are Chris Sports, Sportshouse, Prince and Wilson with Gerflor Taraflex and Victor as mat sponsors. Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and Inquirer Badminton Online are media partners.

The Inquirer Badminton Expo is the biggest of its kind in the country and features more than 40 companies exhibiting their products ranging from equipment, apparel and accessories as well as facilities, personal hygiene, sports drinks, trophies and other related items.

Coinciding with the Expo is a Unisex Bulilit tournament for kids 10 years and below. The kids will be carrying the colors of the exhibitors of the Expo and will be disputing an attractive package of prizes.

Also, the national team coach will host the Toby's clinic and the first 200 patrons of Toby's will be given a thorough fitness screening check-up by trained cardiologists and orthopedic doctors.

Gift certificates from adidas, Wilson and many more will also be given away during the hourly raffle.

The exhibitors:

Puyat Vinyl, Mondo, Alabang Racquet Club, Don Antonio Sports Center, The Zone, The Spa Badminton, Club 650, West Drive, Sureplay Badminton, Diagon Inc., Eurotrade, Teebox/Sangjuara, Triso International, Kason, Badminton Shirts Unlimited, Smash Island, Lexber, Biotech Asia, Bloomingfields, Unlimited, Battledore and Shuttlecock, Citibank, Hotdogs on Sticks, Nextdoor Noodles, Fruits of Life, World Kalakal/Yonex, Powerade, Bag Tags by Pic Ent., Greenwich, Fila, Revicon, Sassa Activewear.

Skywalkers' Basketball Camp ends tomorrow

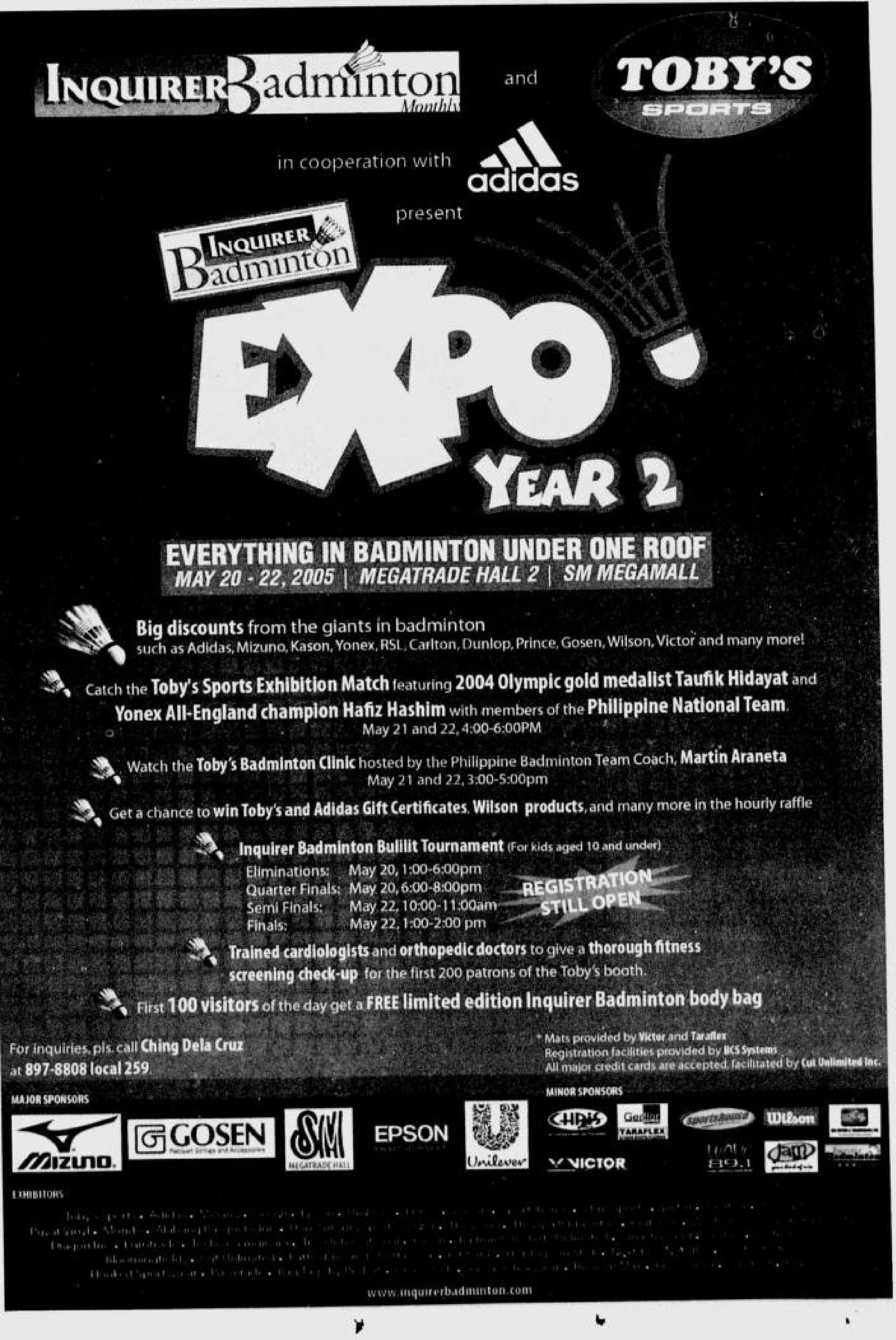
FORMER PBA superstar Samboy Lim's Skywalkers Basketball Camp (SBC) ends tomorrow at the adidas Sports Kamp inside The Fort, Global City.

Apart from the usual drills, personality development and proper on- and off-court attitude are stressed in the camp, embodying Samboy's personal playing style and philosophy.

The SBC was hatched by seven business partners, namely, Anthony Lim, Samboy's brother and SBC training coach; Tino Pinat, skills and training coach; Mel Candano, skills and training coach; Carl Vendicacion, Samboy's weight trainer; Anna Vendicacion, marketing manager; and Jaymee Cabrera, marketing director.

The SBC's 2005 leg kicked off on April 10 and the sixth and concluding leg will be held tomorrow with two three-hour sessions (12-3 p.m. and 3-6 p.m.).

The Champion line of sports apparel is available at Sara Lee Direct Selling-Philippines and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call 810-5402.



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May 21 and 22, 4:00-6:00PM

Watch the **Toby's Badminton Clinic** hosted by the Philippine Badminton Team Coach, **Martin Araneta**
May 21 and 22, 3:00-5:00pm

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Eliminations: May 20, 1:00-6:00pm
Quarter Finals: May 20, 6:00-8:00pm
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Finals: May 22, 1:00-2:00 pm
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Archers target 8-gold sweep

FILIPINO archers are aiming for the bulls-eye in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

They are targeting no less than a sweep of the eight gold medals being dangled in archery in the biennial event slated Nov. 27-Dec. 5 with Manila as main hub.

Dr. Leonora Fe Brawner, president of the National Archery Association of the Philippines, yesterday made the bold prediction during the Scoop sa Kamayan forum where she appeared as one of the guests.

Brawner was accompanied by archers Joann Chan-Tabanag, who has come back from self-imposed retirement to don again the national colors, Jennifer Chan and youthful Amaya Paz, all members of the RP compound division team.

Citing the Filipinos' five-gold medal haul in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix in Bangkok last February, Brawner said the national recurve and compound squads are capable of sweeping their respective events.

Paz, a student at the University of the Philippines, won four gold medals, one each in the individual qualifying and Olympic rounds, while anchoring the team that included Chan-Tabanag and Chan to a pair of first-place finishes in team competitions.

Raul Arambulo rounded out the Filipinos' gold production by topping the individual Olympic round.

"With that performance in an Asian level of competition and the overwhelming support we are getting from the Philippine Sports Commission and San Miguel Corp., our godfather, I don't see any reason why we can't sweep all the gold medals to be disputed," Dr. Brawner said.

Chan-Tabanag, whose four gold-medal harvest in the 1985 SEA Games earned her the Athlete of the Year Award from the Philippine sportswriters Association that time, said the women's compound team has the strongest chance of sweeping both the individual and team gold medals.

Roy Luarca

Muros laments dearth of track and field talents

SHE'S 38, has gone on retirement for three years, but still believes that she can kick some butt in track and field.

Nobody can fault Elma Muros-Posadas for making a last stab at glory in the Southeast Asian Games where she used to reign as long jump and hurdles queen.

She feels that there's a dearth of track and field talent in her favorite events, baring that she bested some of the supposed upstarts with little preparation.

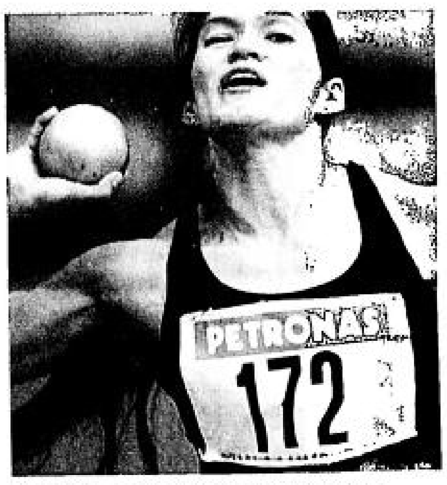
"I'm really serious about my comeback," said Muros-Posadas in Filipino during the Scoop sa kamayan Forum yesterday. "After all the Games will be held here and I believe the cheers of our countrymen will help me win again."

For the record, Muros-Posadas is the most productive Filipino SEAG performer ever with 15 gold medals before she retired in 2001.

Up to now, however, Muros-Posadas is still in a quandary as to what event she'll take part in.

"My husband (personal coach Jojo Posadas) and I are still evaluating whether I'll compete in the heptathlon or the 400m hurdles," said Muros-Posadas. "My first goal is to qualify. And if I do, I'll give it all for flag and country."

The pride of Magdiwang, Romblon, has done it many times before. She may yet be able to turn back time once again.



MUROS: another crack at SEAG glory.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

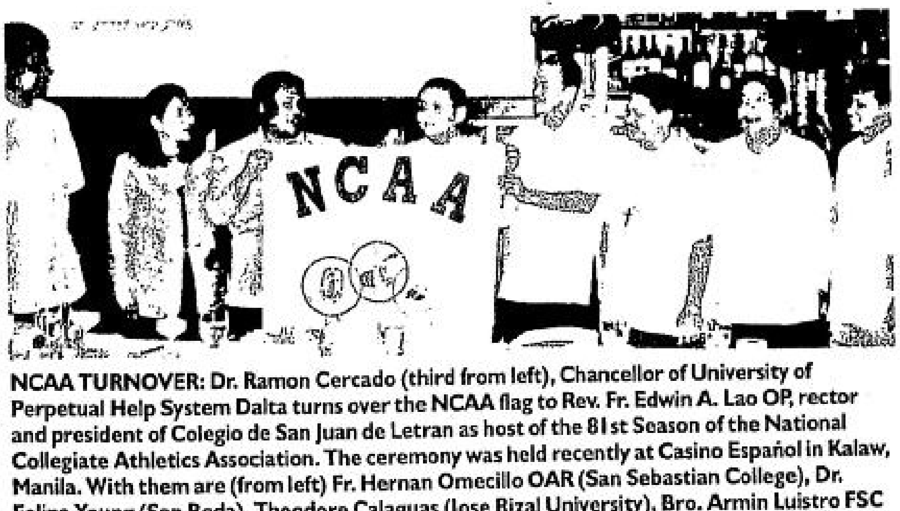
Softball-Baseball party today

SOFTBELLES Inc. will be having a Softball-Baseball Party at the adidas Sports Kamp at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City starting 4 p.m. today.

The party is a gathering of softball/baseball aficionados and an awarding ceremony of the Softbelles Summer Camp 2005 capped by a three-day tournament that ended yesterday.

The event is a 15-session softball camp aimed at teaching the proper basic softball skills and strategies to girls ages 8-18.

Check out the Softbelles website at www.softbelles.org for more information or e-mail at home@softbelles.org.



NCAA TURNOVER: Dr. Ramon Cercado (third from left), Chancellor of University of Perpetual Help System Dalta turns over the NCAA flag to Rev. Fr. Edwin A. Lao OP, rector and president of Colegio de San Juan de Letran as host of the 81st Season of the National Collegiate Athletics Association. The ceremony was held recently at Casino Español in Kalaw, Manila. With them are (from left) Fr. Hernan Omecillo OAR (San Sebastian College), Dr. Felina Young (San Beda), Theodore Calaguas (Jose Rizal University), Bro. Armin Luistro FSC (College of St. Benilde), Dr. Reynaldo Vea (Mapua Institute of Technology) and Dr. Oscar Suarez (Philippine Christian University).

JOLLIBEE CHAMPS: The DIA-Greenteam, sponsored by Jolibee-Quintin Paredes and Sta. Lucia 1 and 2, after winning its fourth straight title in the Jollibee Basketball league. The team members are Harold de Leon, Albert Soriano, Walter Calderon, Andy Cañete, Elmer Celocia, James Cruz, Melvin Dejuras, Carlito Estangco, Jose Mari Jarana, Joemari Magnabe, Norwin Malicsi, Patrick Manayag, Jovito Mendoza, Melchor Opilan, Randy Palmero, Christopher Rizal and Joseph Rizal.

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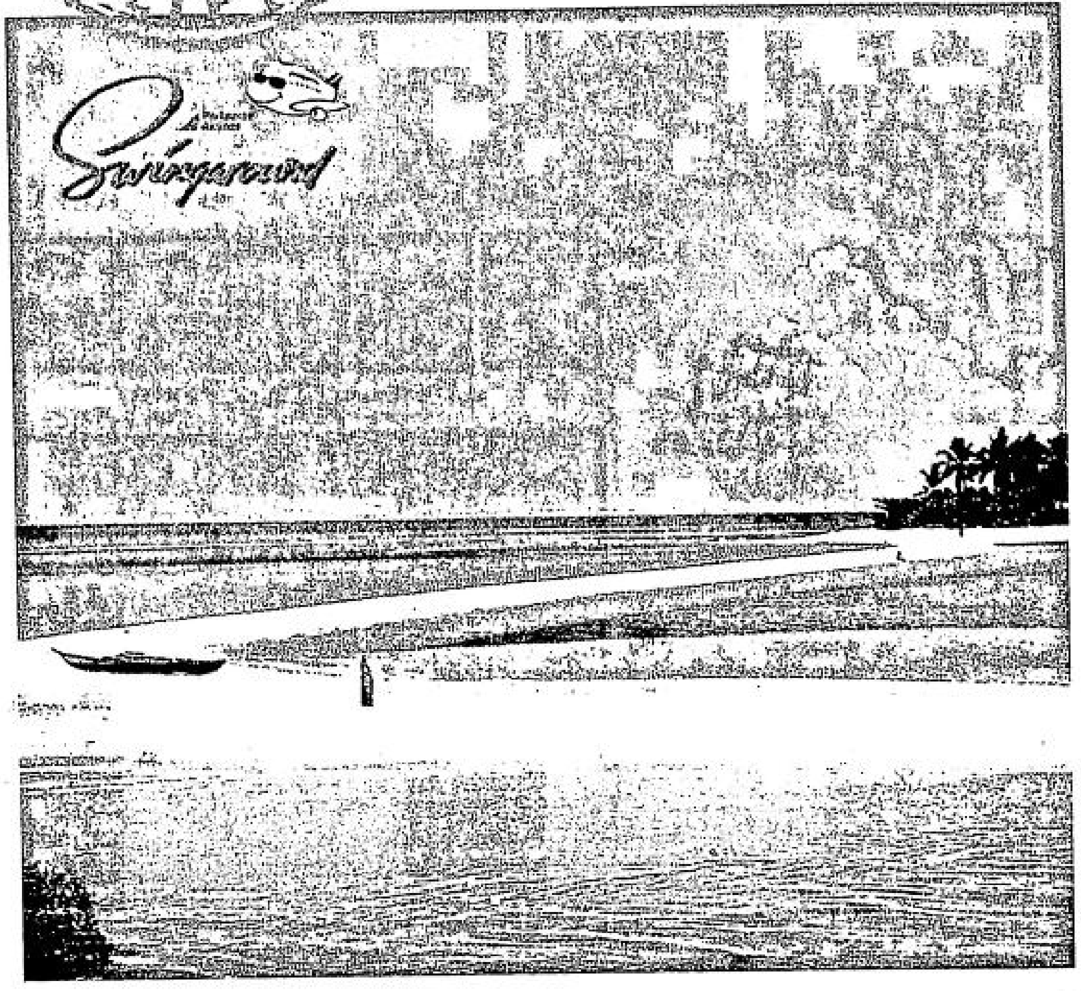

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- **25% OFF** on selected products at all GNC stores* until June 27, 2005.
- **15% OFF** on regular items, **10% OFF** on consigned items (excluding items on sale or price control) at selected Toby's stores** until June 30, 2005.

Promo period from April 15-June 30, 2005. See [illegible] cards for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0958, Series of 2005.

*Except for the following GNC branches: The Landmark, Makati and The Atrium, Iloilo.

**Participating outlets: SM Bacoor, SM Baguio, SM Cebu, SM [illegible] Bulacan, Robinson's Iloilo and all Toby's Metro Manila branches except Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM Southmall and Greenhills.

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Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
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Ogie Alcasid returns to musical theater with Cayabyab's 'Caysasay'

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN musical-theater buffs and patrons of spiritual productions first heard that *the* Ryan Cayabyab was composing the music for his newest religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," they were excited. After such acclaimed masterworks as "Katy!," "Magnificat" and his Rizal musicals, they knew that they would be in for another special theater treat.

Recently, their excitement level rose even higher when they learned that popular comedy star, TV host, singer and composer Ogie Alcasid had enthusiastically agreed to topbill the production, in the dramatically demanding acting and singing role of Haybing, one of the most well-known beneficiaries of the miracles that the Our Lady of Caysasay is famous for.

Death by decapitation

Haybing was a Chinese stonemason in Taal, Batangas, who was executed by decapitation in the 16th century. Being a devotee of Our Lady, he prayed to her at the time of his death—and was stunningly brought back to life sometime later, to the amazement of the people who had witnessed his decapitation.

In keeping with the heightened psychological urgency of Haybing's daunting experiences, Cayabyab has written four exceptionally dramatic songs that highlight Ogie's singing prowess and emotive range.

This is the second dramatic musical-theater production that Ogie has agreed to be involved in. Some years ago, he both surprised and impressed audiences when he played Dr. Jose Rizal in Nonoy Gallardo's musical, "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?"

In that production, Alcasid resoundingly proved that he could do much more than comedy, as he did full justice to the challenging and complex role of the national hero, winning raves from audiences and critics alike.

Memorable showcase

Now, in "Birhen ng Caysasay," Ogie had another memorable showcase for his singing and acting talent, as he essays the compelling role of Haybing.

Ogie has been offered many musicals before, but he chose to do this one, because the story of Our Lady of Caysasay is close to his heart, since his mother came from Taal, and is in fact one of the leading lights of the Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation, which along with the Taal-CHARM Foundation, Taal Heritage Foundation and the Cultural Center of the Philippines is presenting the musical. (Call executive producer Ramon Orlina at 781-5918, or email orlina@pldtdsl.net for details.)

Other guest stars and acclaimed musical-theater artists have joined the cast of Cayabyab's latest musical, because they too believe in the importance of musical and spiritual upliftment in these challenging times.

"Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay" will be presented at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater on July 7, 8, 9 and 10, after which it will be taken on a performance tour of Luzon provinces, to further spread the word about Our Lady's love for her children, and her readiness to help them at their most daunting moments of need.

ALCASID. Singing prowess and emotive range.

CAYABYAB. Has written four memorable songs for Haybing, Alcasid's character.

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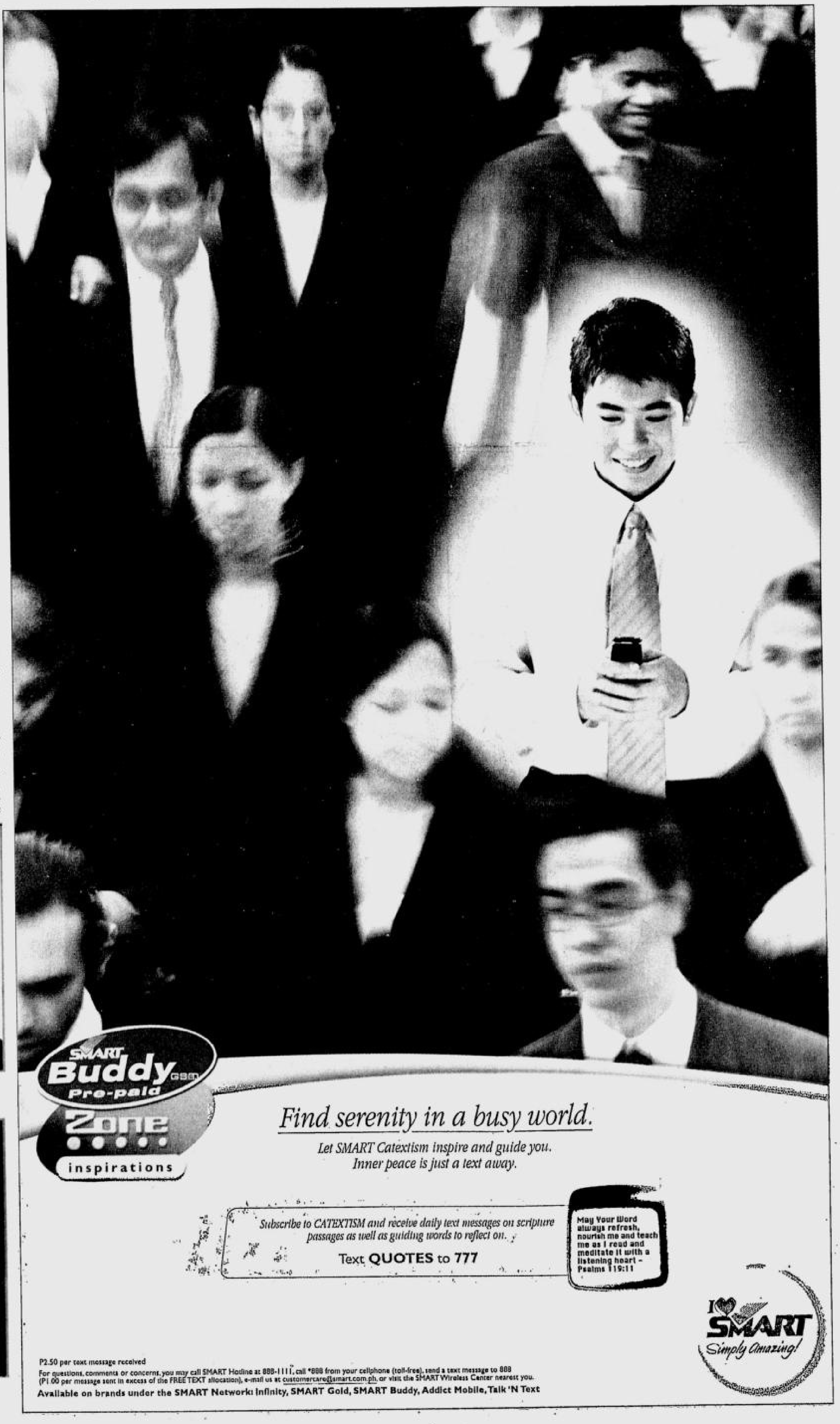

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Meily's 'La Visa Loca' gets 'A' from CEB

By Rica Arevalo

MARK Meily is back in his trademark wit and humor with his second feature, "La Visa Loca." The film recently received a grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

How different is Meily's film from his previous production, "Crying Ladies"? He shares: "La Visa Loca" is more personal. It deals with issues that affect me greatly—like colonial mentality. I have experienced double standards against Filipinos, especially when applying for a US visa."

Unique

"La Visa Loca" is based on Meily's 2004 Palanca-winning script, "Good Friday Archipelago." "I wanted to write about what makes Filipinos unique. First, we're the only Asian country that is largely Catholic. Second, we're the most Americanized among Asians. And setting the story during the Lenten season gives it an interesting backdrop," adds Meily.

PADILLA (RIGHT). Sensitive and intelligent actor.

The film chronicles Jess Huson's (Robin Padilla) quest to attain his lifelong ambition—to be an American citizen. He lives with his father, (Johnny Delgado), who spends most of his time watching television and calling up radio talk shows to express his views on Philippine society.

To secure money for a US visa, Jess takes on odd jobs, working as a human punching bag or a pimp.

Meily confesses, "Honestly, people warned me about my choice of actor for the role of Jess. But, after working with Robin, I realized that he is one of the most underrated actors around. He is a sensitive and intelligent actor."

Commercials

Meily has been directing TV commercials since 1992, but he still considers himself a "student" of film. "I learn something new with each film I make. I learned so much more about writing after 'Crying Ladies.' In 'La Visa Loca' (which opens on May 25), the story focuses on one central character."

According to Meily, the advent of high-definition technology and digital filmmaking is a blessing. "The stories and techniques young filmmakers are attempting to do are very inspiring. I hope viewers will embrace this development," he adds.

Grand showdown seen in 'AI' finals

By Noelani Torre

QUARTET is now down to three—minus Fedorov (bottom, right).

"AMERICAN Idol" is one of the most popular shows on television today, with more than 20 million viewers tuning in per episode in the US. This, despite all the recent allegations of vote-rigging, and the Paula Abdul-Corey Clark scandal.

Last week, we watched 28-year-old Scott Savol voted off. In case you aren't a faithful "AI" viewer, Savol was that big guy who had no problems at all with self-confidence. He was so confident, in fact, that it got on people's nerves—even our sweet, patient grandmother cheered when he didn't make it!

One-way ticket

The final four were Anthony Fedorov, Bo Bice, Carrie Underwood and Vonzell Solomon. And the whittling continued with this week's country and R&B showdown that proved to be Ukrainian-born, 19-year-old Anthony Fedorov's one-way ticket to the blues.

Fedorov gave a rather mediocre performance of "If You Don't Know Me," which prompted Simon Cowell to let loose with yet another acerbic quip. "I think you need soul for that song," he said. "It's like trying to have Woody Allen play the lead in 'Shaft.'"

It was a no-win situation for Fedorov, and viewers agreed with Cowell by voting the youngest remaining contestant off the show.

He was the weakest performer among the four, in our opinion. He still had a raw quality and his unsure singing was easily eclipsed by the more self-assured performances of the others.

Still in the running are 29-year-old rocker Bice, 21-year-old Oklahoma-native Underwood, and 21-year-old Florida-native Solomon. All three are strong performers, though Bice has something working against him.

He has had several drug arrests in the past, and though he underwent drug rehab, a number of viewers have said that they'd prefer a "squeaky clean" Idol. Bice has a surprisingly solid fan base, however, and they haven't failed him thus far.

Serious voting issue

The show is still dogged by a serious voting issue, though. This week, Underwood's dial-in phone number was mistakenly displayed under all the contestants' captions, and this may have added to her votes. In March, Fox—"American Idol" 's network—had to add a repeat-vote episode when they displayed wrong call-in numbers for three contestants.

We'll keep watching the show no matter what, especially as the season is nearing its end. However, we have to say that our viewing experience these past weeks would have been infinitely better if Constantine Maroulis were still around!

Paris Hilton tries her luck in films, recording

By Rito P. Asilo

FROM Jake Renoy: "Paris Hilton's antics fascinate me. Please write about her."

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

Paris Hilton, the 24-year-old infamous hotel-chain heiress, is known for her amusing quips ("I went to Wal-Mart for the first time recently. I always thought they sold wallpaper—I didn't realize they had everything! You can get anything you want there for really, really cheap!").

She rose to Internet superstardom after her home-made sex video, filmed five years ago at age 19, with former boyfriend, Rick Salomon (Shannen Doherty's former husband), started appearing online in 2003.

In no time, the controversial video became the most downloaded "filmclip" on the world-wide web, and Paris soon joined Pamela Anderson, Rob Lowe and Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst—celebrities who became more famous for video-scandal notoriety than for their filmography or discography, respectively. These celebs—local or foreign—just can't stay away from cameras, can they?

Foreign

Show business isn't really foreign to the Hilton household. Her mother, Kathy Richards, is a former actress. Paris is the great-granddaughter of Hilton Hotels founder, Conrad Hilton (whose son, Conrad Jr., was Elizabeth Taylor's first husband).

HILTON. About to release her pop debut album, "Paris Is Burning."

The popular starlet headlined the hit reality-TV show, "The Simple Life," with Nicole Richie (Lionel's adopted daughter), for three seasons. She recently confirmed her rift with Richie.

Fashion critic

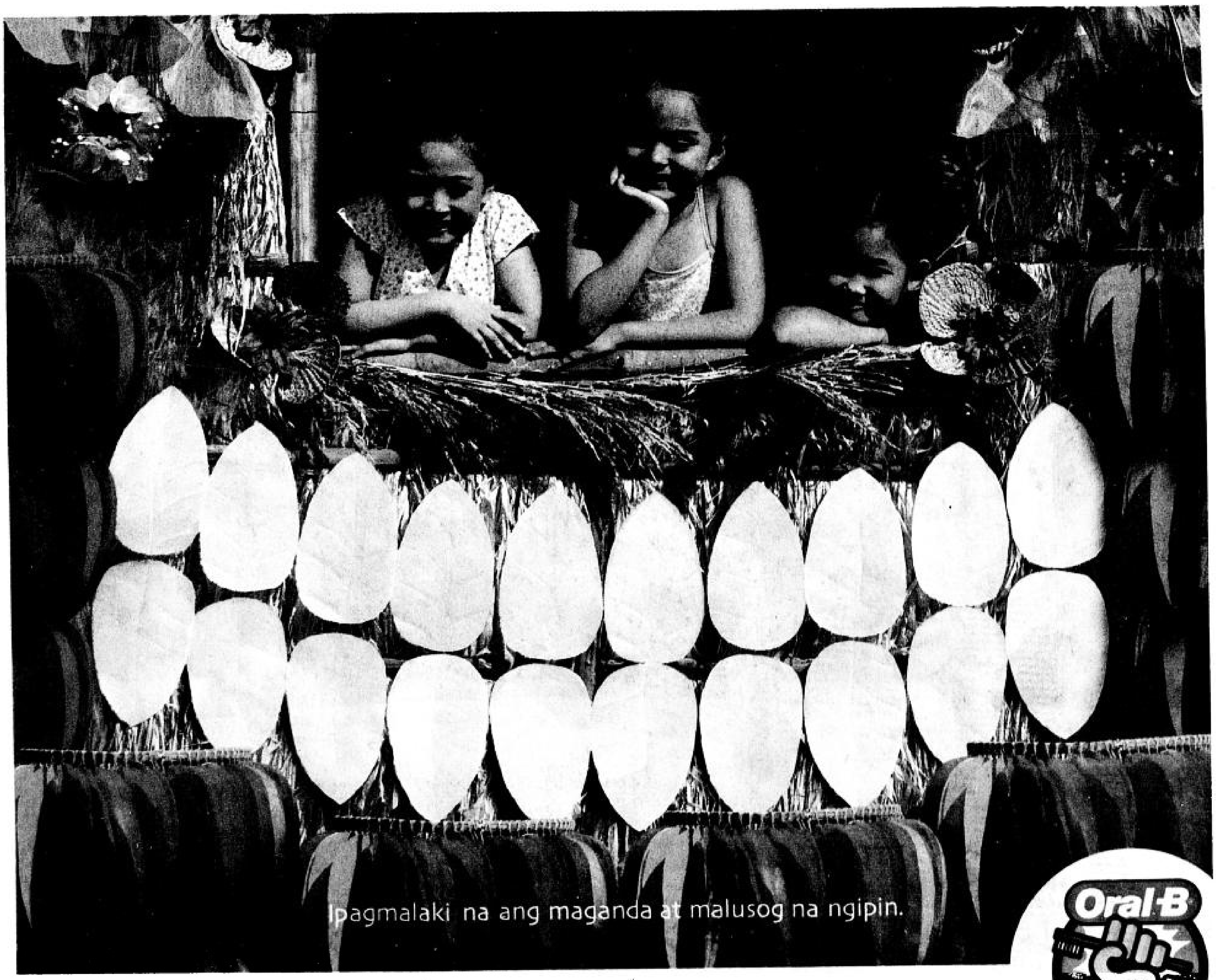
Hilton wears—hold your breath!—size 11 shoes! Money may be no object for her, but her family's fortune hasn't spared the heiress from the scathing tongue of fashion critic, Mr. Blackwell—who named Paris the worst-dressed celebrity of 2003.

Last week, the 5'8" actress' latest film, the horror remake, "The House of Wax," co-starring heartthrob Chad Michael Murray, debuted at No. 2 at the box office.

Her pop album, "Paris Is Burning," which features the track, "Screwed," is set for release anytime now.

Gratuitous

Film critics had a field day discussing Paris' participation (spoiler alert: she dies) in "The House of Wax." The New York Post's Kyle Smith wrote: "The murder of Hilton's character is beautifully gratuitous and utterly without mercy. You have to smile at her willingness to essay the (slasher) classic—no better use for her talents has yet been devised. She is looking at a long and happy career of being chased, menaced and bloodied." Ouch!



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A lot to celebrate in *Manay* Ichu's life and career

By Boots Anson Roa

RESPECTED award-winning actor Johnny Delgado couldn't have said it better when he nominated Sampaguita Pictures scion and industry leader, Marichu Vera Perez Maceda, for the first Fernando Poe Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award from the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) tonight.

In Johnny's words: "Manay Ichu"—as she is lovingly called by film practitioners—"has not received any formal recognition from film industry bodies despite her continuous, consistent and self-effacing, albeit significant contributions to its upliftment."

At the "viva voce" voting, 95 percent of the FAP governors not only raised their hands for *Manay*, but gave her a standing ovation *in absentia* to affirm their faith and trust in her.

Family friend

My father, the late '50s actor Oscar Moreno, was not only a family friend of the Vera Perezes, he was also a contract star of Sampaguita from 1947 to the early '60s.

As such, I also grew up with the Vera-Perez children as friends. My earliest recollection of *Manay* Ichu is through a photo of my third birthday party in 1948 where, "fashionable" as we were, I wore a hat and she a ribbon larger than her head. She was going on six then and was already a role model for me and child stars Tessie Agana, Precy Ortega and Toots Francisco, daughter of Fred Montilla.

She evolved to be *Manay* (big sister) to us onto our teen years, when we had deep, dark collective crushes on studio heartthrobs Romeo Vasquez, Juancho Gutierrez and Eddie Gutierez.

Being the eldest of seven children of starmaker Dr. Pingot Perez and the former Nene Vera, and eldest granddaughter of Judge Jose and Dolores "Mommy" Vera, Ichu was the *niña bonita* of the Vera-Perezes and their Sampaguita family. With reason: Ichu was cute, well-behaved, lovable, very bright and talented. She was articulate—and she could act!

Studio system

At the time, Sampaguita was one of the Big Four, together with LVN, Premiere and Lebran. The prevailing "studio system" was to crumble in the late '50s and early '60s with the influx of "independent" producers like Atty. Espiridion Laxa of Tagalog-Ilang-Ilang, the Santiago brothers, Larry, Pablo and Menes, and big stars like Erap, FPJ, Dolphy, Amalia Fuentes, Susan Roces, Zaldy Zschornack and Eddie Rodriguez, who emerged as producers of their own films. Even Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos joined the producing fray in the early '70s.

During the studio's salad days, from the '50s to the early '70s, Sampaguita's stars were in a class by themselves. The actresses, led by Gloria Romero, were known to be *"de numero"* or extra-refined in their ways, and meticulous in their grooming and fashion sense. They were welcomed in high society, and were invited to model for *haute couture* designers Ramon Valera, Pitoy Moreno and Ben Farrales.

THREE-YEAR-OLD Boots (top left) at her birthday party with Pepito (bottom left) and Marichu (bottom right) Vera Perez among her guests.

Looking back, we ascribe this to the extra care that Mrs. Nene Vera Perez, only daughter of a former Albay governor and senator of the Philippines, showered on her stars. By sheer example, Mrs. Vera-Perez bequeathed this classy elegance and breeding to daughter Marichu, who later, naturally slipped into the role of social directress and wardrobe consultant to the Sampaguita stars.

Honor student

At about that time, Marichu was a consistent honor student and campus leader, with glowing writing credentials, at the Assumption Convent on Herran. She was the toast of the *"alta sociedad,"* coming as she did from the ranks of the "old rich."

Her debut—at a time when coming out parties at 18 did mean an introduction to womanhood—was the event of the year, with a grand cotillion featuring the *créme de la créme* of junior society. It was a status symbol for every young girl to be invited to the event.

And yet, in and out of school, Ichu was known not to be affected by the trappings of wealth and celebrity. She was a catechist and a sodalist who reached out to the marginalized sectors of society.

At Sampaguita, she was known to be unaffected and solicitous to the smaller workers—known then in the industry as the *"alipores."*

Two years her junior, I consciously patterned my academic and activities record after hers, and was the better for it. That's why my heart broke when, considering our family's close ties, my father restricted me from going to Ichu's debut since, at 15, I had not yet been allowed to go to parties. I felt like a social outcast, a second-class member of my extended Sampaguita family.

Politics

Politics must be an adjunct to *Manay* Ichu's life. At 18, she married the toast of Manila politics—young and intelligent Atenista, Ernesto Maceda, who was to become Senate President.

Their partnership, though now estranged, had produced five equally-accomplished sons, one of whom is also steeped in politics.

In recent years, *Manay's* staunch and unwavering support for Erap and FPJ have become legend. Meanwhile, she ensures that her relationship with her brother-in-law, Speaker Joe de Venecia, sister Gina's husband, transcends politics.

Nevertheless, she does not hesitate to ask for his support and legislative assistance for vital film-related bills, like that which created the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP),headed by Laurice Guillen.

While *Manay* bewails the dismal state of the film industry she dearly loves, her spirit remains undaunted. At 62, when many colleagues have given up and retired, *Manay* remains a pillar of the industry, in her various capacities as film resource person, head of the FDCP's International Film Festival Committee (IFFCOM) and trustee of the Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund).

Problems

To keep her sanity amidst industry problems, *Manay* channels her creative talents to concocting beautiful home decor and semi-precious hand-made jewelry. A doting *lola* who can talk incessantly when asked about her grandchildren, *Manay* visits them in the West Coast like she were only visiting some province here.

We pray that *Manay* Ichu will be here to stay to uphold the movie industry in her official roles and, perhaps in more enduring fashion, in her "un-knighted" but very effective discharge as "mother of perpetual help" to countless people in need.

MACEDA. Keeps working for the improvement of the film industry she dearly loves.

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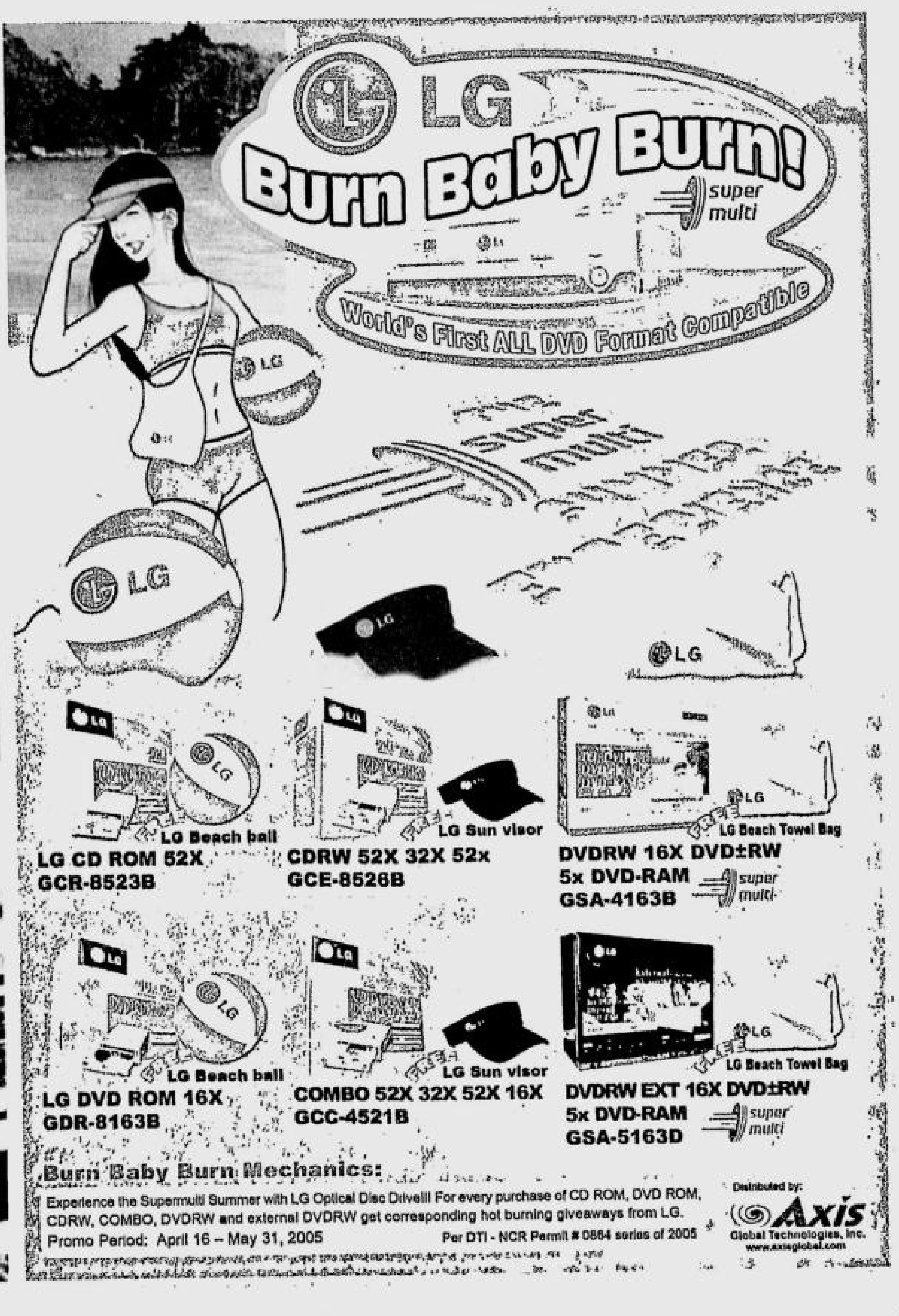

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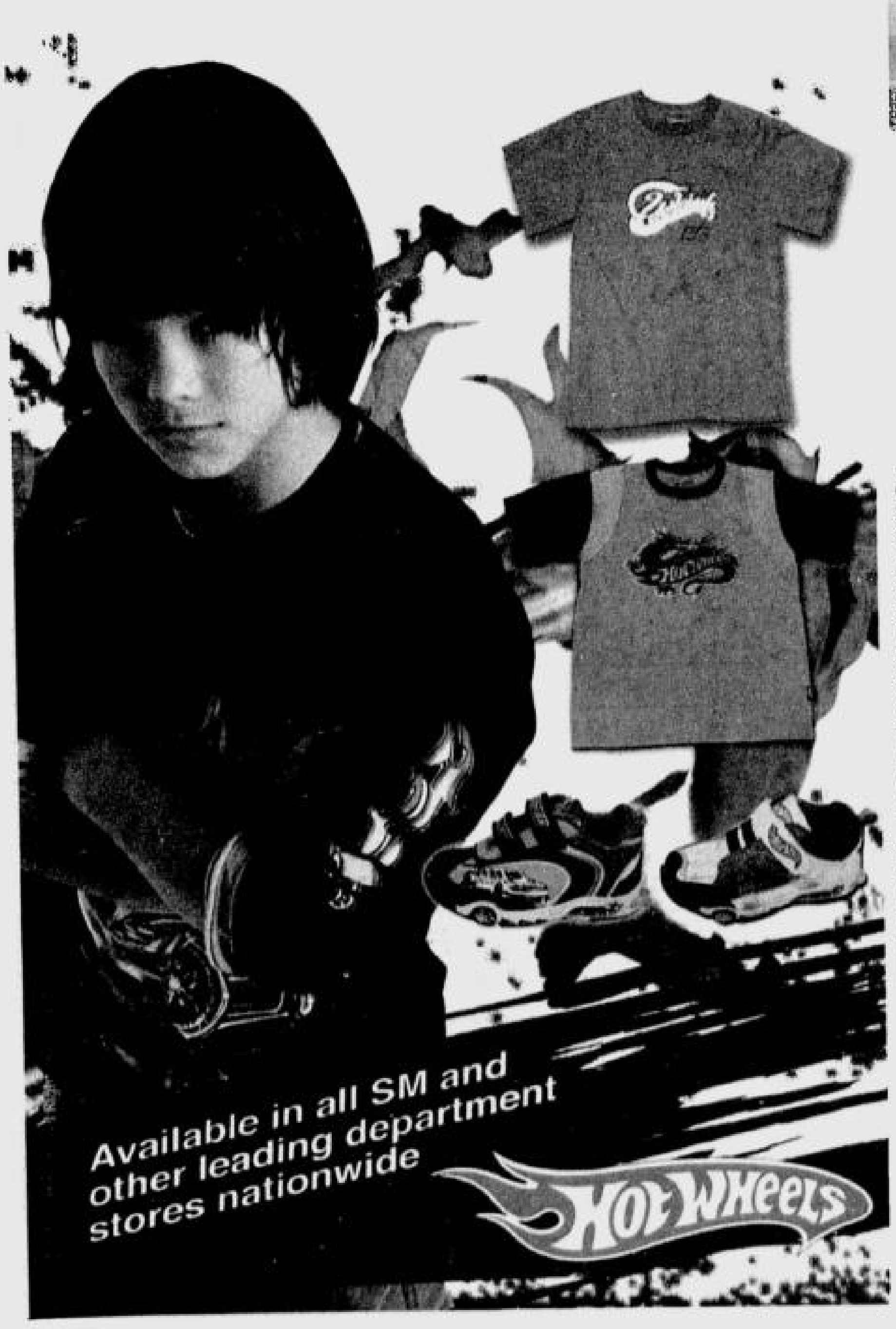
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KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 12:40 / 3:00 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 6:40 / 9:00 / 9:55
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA Pre-Opening Screenings - KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❹ IN GOOD COMPANY 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
❷ CAN THIS BE LOVE 11:20 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00
❺ HEAD IN THE CLOUDS 11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15
❸ XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL 12:50 / 2:45 / 4:40 / 6:35 / 8:30
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
KEVYN LETTAU: MEMORIES OF LOVE May 14, Saturday, 8pm
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE May 15 4:15pm Coke vs. Ginebra / 6:35pm San Miguel vs. Shell
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MOTHER ANGELICA. Celebrated her 82nd birthday recently.

Update on Mother Angelica

By Nestor U. Torre

THE MANY Filipino viewers of the Eternal Word Catholic Network were shocked to learn sometime ago that the Catholic TV Network's founder and shining light, Mother Angelica, had been sidelined by a stroke.

Some viewers asked us to check with the TV network for the latest on Mother Angelica, so we contacted EWTN's Pacific Rim regional manager Edwin T. Lopez. His helpful update:

Thanksgiving

"In the midst of their prayers of thanksgiving for the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the nuns of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama celebrated Mother Angelica's 82nd birthday last April 20.

"The sisters celebrated Mother's birthday in their usual joyful fashion, presenting her with simple, thoughtful gifts. She also received good wishes and prayers from friends around the world. Mother Angelica thanks everyone for the beautiful greetings, prayers and expressions of love.

Possibility

"As for the possibility of Mother returning to host a show, she is still recovering from a series of strokes over the last four years. Although it is very unlikely that she would ever return to host her own show, she remains open to God's will and direction in her life.

"To know more about Mother Angelica and EWTN, log on to: http://www.ewtn.com/motherupdate.asp."

Be that as it may, we'll continue praying for Mother, and being grateful to her for giving us so many years of illuminating and inspiring religious programming, in her signature no-nonsense way.

Examples

In addition, we keep citing her and EWTN as examples for other people to follow in their own efforts to use TV for spiritual and evangelizing purposes. She started the religious channel with practically no money, relying on Divine Providence all the way, and now EWTN reaches 80 million viewers around the world!

Even as we accept Mother's medical condition, we still pray for a miracle that will bring her back, live, to our TV screens. This is not just a fond wish: Some years ago, Mother Angelica received a miraculous cure that enabled her to walk without pain for the first time in decades. It can happen again!

(EWTN is on Sky-Cable Channel 63.)

SATURDAY *Special*

Love and moral ambiguity in the movie

By Rito P. Asilo

"In Good Company"

D: Paul Weitz
S: Dennis Quaid, Topher Grace, Scarlett Johansson

DAN Foreman (Dennis Quaid) shrugs off his demotion at work when the company he works for is shaken by a corporate takeover. But, he is thrown for a loop when he discovers that the mysterious guy his 18-year-old daughter, Alex (Scarlett Johansson), is dating is his new twentysomething boss, Carter Duryea (Topher Grace), the business-school prodigy who has just taken over his job!

Paced by the sensitive performances of Quaid and Johansson and the easy, unthreatening charm of Grace, Paul Weitz's ("About A Boy") film puts a human face to the ruthlessness and political machinations of the corporate world.

When Alex asks: "You're a bizarrely honest guy, huh?," Carter responds, "No, just around you."

The movie serves up affecting and subtle musings on ambition, obligation, integrity, and the importance of family at a time when moral ambiguity overwhelms every facet of society.

"Ang Lagusan" (The Tunnel)

D: Gina Marissa Tagasa
S: Cris Villanueva, Gina Pareno, Alfred Vargas

In Gina Marissa Tagasa's refreshingly original but overly picaresque digital-film feature, Joel (Cris Villanueva) wakes up on a ship, not knowing who he is. His clues: the picture of a seven-year-old girl, a hundred-peso bill, a child's birthday letter addressed to God, and an instruction to go to an accompanying address. Unfortunately, when he finds his answers, they only elicit more confounding questions.

At poverty-stricken Lagusan, he finds a plethora of colorful characters: Ason, an eccentric abortionist (Gina Pareno), who claims to be his mother; Ditas (CJ Mercado), who's staying with Ason until she recovers from abortion; Kato, who peddles drugs hidden inside a Bible for the *barangay* bully, Noni (Alfred Vargas), and an omniscient stranger (Richard Reynoso).

Villanueva, Vargas and Mercado deliver focused performances that shine despite the annoyingly over-the-top histrionics turned in by the rest of the cast.

The film's interesting premise is further dragged down by its sluggish pace, sketchy flashbacks and a fuzzy big-screen transfer.

But, the film has good intentions, and a provocative message: Everyone walks through a tunnel—some see the light, while others choose to stay in the dark.

VILLANUEVA AND GRACE. Play an amnesiac and a business-school prodigy, respectively.

THOMAS. Can stand on his own as musician.

Rob Thomas shines in tight, bright debut

By Noelani Torre

CLEAN-SHAVEN and shorn of his signature unruly mop, Matchbox Twenty vocalist Rob Thomas looks more like Justin Timberlake than himself. At least, he doesn't sound like JT, right?—Or doesn't he? There are certainly moments in his debut solo effort, "Something To Be," when he treads the dangerous waters of Timberlake-style crossover R&B.

Dangerous, that is, in the sense that it lays down the final brick in his middle-of-the-road position in music-making. But it's definitely not dangerous in the crowd-pleasing sense.

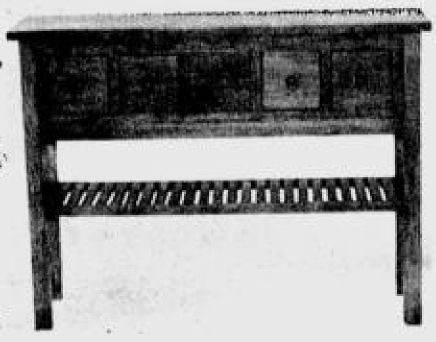
Thomas has never had a problem pleasing the multitudes, and if you're still entertaining the vague hope that he (and ergo, Matchbox Twenty) will finally change his M.O.R. stance, quash it now.

Merit

Thomas isn't veering off the well-beaten, well-traveled path—and though that makes him less interesting for those of us who've had our fill of such types, it doesn't mean that you won't find merit in his well-thought-out performance.

Ever since he wrote and sang the smash hit, "Smooth," with Latin icon Santana in 1999 (and bagged three Grammies: song of the year, record of the year, and best pop collaboration),

ROB/ A3-3



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Tears?

Overflowing love, really. Now working behind the fashion ramp and pageant stage, Abby helps other women find their true beauty. More importantly, having discovered the secret herself, she has focused her life on being a model wife and mother. And when she sees the sparkle in her son Irijah's eyes, she cannot help but feel like the most fulfilled and most beautiful woman in the world.

Wanting to give others the chance to experience this simple happiness, Abby has pledged to donate her eyes and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the impor-tance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Abby, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893 5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph.

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Abbygale Arenas-de Leon
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Real-life survivors in Discovery Channel series

By Nestor U. Torre

REALITY TV shows like "Survivor" and "Fear Factor" pit contestants against each other, nature in all its rawness, and their own physical and psychological weaknesses. But, these tests of will and strength pale in comparison to the real-life heroism highlighted by Discovery Channel's new three-part series, "I Survived," which will start telecasting on Monday, May 16 at 10 p.m.

The limited series shows the actions and decisions made by real-life survivors that tipped the scales in their favor. A strong factor is their astute and inspired decision-making, whether intentional, accidental or coincidental.

Inside stories

The Discovery Channel show reveals the inside stories of how some "lucky" survivors overcame actual life-threatening experiences and challenges. In each episode, viewers learn how coincidence and science—not luck or wits—can play major roles in whether people survive outrageous or daunting circumstances.

From the dangerous battlefields of Iraq to the seemingly tranquil waters of Florida, viewers learn that disaster can strike at any moment—but, it's how people react that enables them to come out unscathed.

The series makes creative use of eyewitness accounts and interviews to present an empathetic account of how seemingly "ordinary" people can turn heroic when their lives are at stake.

The show demonstrates how bullets can be stopped in mid-flight; how fires can fail to spread; why a building survives an earthquake when its neighbor collapses; and how the human body can keep going when its propelled by adrenaline and protected by instinct.

First episode

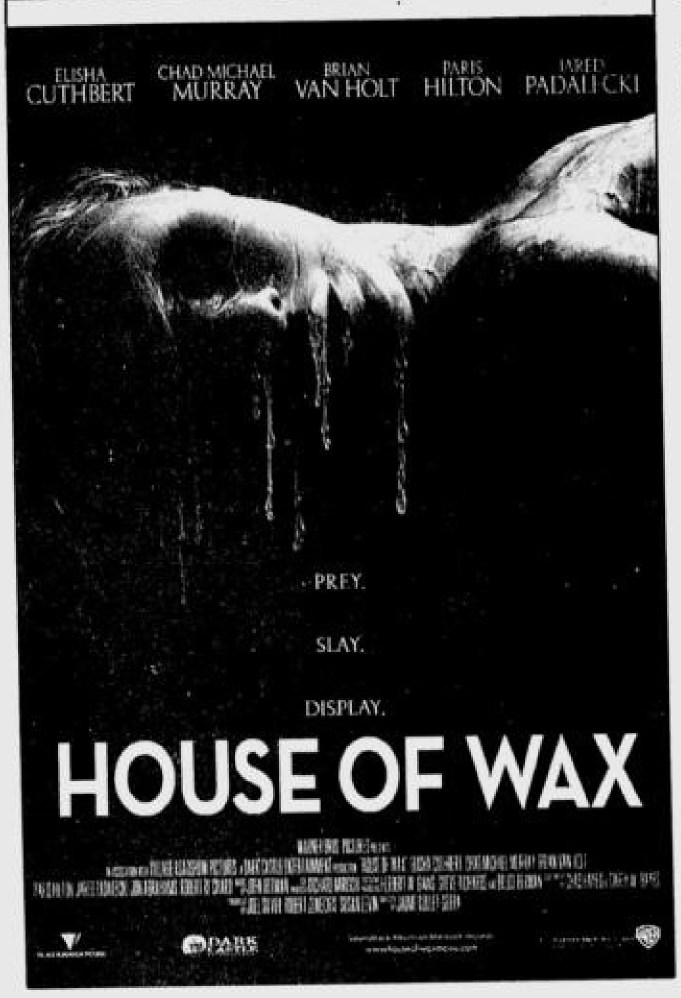
The first episode of "I Survived" shows how a plane struck by lightning crashes and breaks into pieces, yet all 225 people on board escape alive.

The second telecast features a man who survives a shark attack after being bitten 30 times! Another feature is on a skydiver who lives to tell his story after plunging 3,200 feet in just 30 seconds when his parachute fails to open.

And the third episode tells the story of a Fijian soldier who is shot three times—the first bullet hitting his breastplate—and stopping barely a centimeter from his heart!

Viewers also see how psychology and training can work together to produce an instinct for survival. And the soldier finds out what he did to effect his own survival.

SNEAK PREVIEWS ON MAY 16 & 17!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HEAD IN THE CLOUDS R13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	AMITYVILLE HORROR R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

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2	KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3	AMITYVILLE HORROR 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35
4	GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

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'Tara na Pinoy!' on 5

(Conclusion)

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

BO Sanchez is one of the most sought-after lay evangelists in the country today. He chairs Shepherd's Voice Publications, producer of ABC-5's "Tara na Pinoy!," and is the publisher of widely-read inspirational magazines Kerygma, Fish, Didache and Companion. He is also the founder of Anawim, home to 55 abandoned elderly, orphans, and the physically and mentally-handicapped.

He has written six inspirational books that include "You Can Make Your Life Beautiful," "Thank God He's Boss," "Simplify" and "Live a Good Life." He has penned three prayer books and composed inspirational songs.

Preaching

Bo is the youngest and only boy born to Eugene and Pilar Sanchez. His first exposure to preaching came when he was 13 years old. The whole family had been attending a prayer meeting with the Upper Room prayer group in Quezon City, when Sr. Aida Manongdo received word from the Lord that Bo was going to be a preacher.

After this revelation came "Bible Quiz," a top-rating Sunday television show hosted by Ronald Remy. Bo represented Claret and later emerged champion.

At age 14, Bo started a prayer group called the Light of Jesus Community. From 30 people, the group has now grown to thousands.

With "Tara Na, Pinoy!," your Sunday noontime couldn't be better!

Email bomarowe@info.com.ph, or log on to www.bosanchez.ph.

Rob

From page A3-1

folks have acknowledged Thomas' songwriting talent.

"Something To Be" has given Thomas the chance to showcase this talent. The album is a tight piece of work, and skeptics should know that it's not a solo-fied version of your typical Matchbox Twenty effort. It's brighter, for one, with a little less rock and a little more funk and pop.

Competent

In the end, however, what this 12-song CD shows is that, though he's a competent songwriter, he still has some way to go. Thomas has always had a knack for creating hook-laden radio favorites, but the hooks aren't as plentiful here as you would expect, and there are times when he overindulges his serious emo-rocker side.

More eclectic than your usual guitar-driven Matchbox sound, "Something To Be" incorporates as many varied elements as it can get away with, including gospel, R&B, Latin and hip-hop.

Thomas and producer Matt Serletic (who also produced the band's three albums) have certainly succeeded in this, and also in showing us that Thomas can stand on his own as a musician. He's not giving up his day job, though!

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MTRCB: PG-13
12:55, 4:00, 7:05, 10:10 LMF

2 THE INTERPRETER
MTRCB: PG-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
MTRCB: R-13
11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

4 IN GOOD COMPANY
MTRCB:PG-13
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

PREMIERE THEATRE GUESS WHO
MTRCB: PG-13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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10:30,1:25,4:20,7:15,10:10

CINEMA 2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR - PG13
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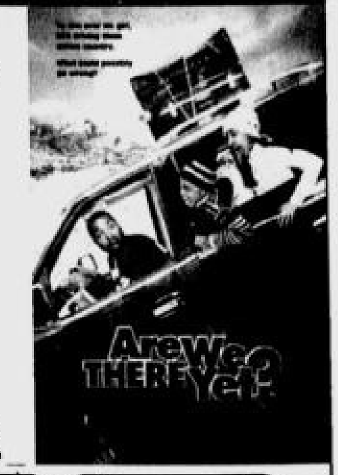
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CINEMA 1: THE INTERPRETER
10:25 FS / 10:30 MF / 12:42 / 2:54 / 5:06
7:18 / 9:25 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:40 END
CINEMA 3: KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
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9:10 LFS/9:30 LMF / 11:55 END
☎ (032) 231-3878

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KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:25 MF / 1:05 / 3:45 / 6:25
8:55 LFS/9:05 LMF / 11:50 END
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sm megamall
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SIX
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 ANG LAGUSAN
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11 CAN THIS BE LOVE
12 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city fairview
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SAHARA
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
8 THE PACIFIER
9 SIX
10 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11 THE WEDDING DATE
12 GUESS WHO

sm city north edsa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 RESERVED
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 ARE WE THERE YET?
6 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
7 IN GOOD COMPANY
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city sta. mesa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 SIX
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
9 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10 IN GOOG COMPANY

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 IN GOOD COMPANY
5 GUESS WHO
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE
9 SIX
10 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1 THE AMIYTVILLE HORROR
2 SIX
3 IN GOOD COMPANY
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 GUESS WHO
8 THE INTERPRETER
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 SAHARA
11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 SAMARA: RING 2

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city bicutan
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 IN GOOD COMPANY

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 GUESS WHO
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 SAHARA
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city baguio
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAHARA

sm city batangas
1 THE PACIFIER
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA

sm city dasmariñas
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA

sm city marilao
1 SAHARA
2 GUESS WHO
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city bacoor
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 SIX
8 SAHARA

sm city lucena
1 SAHARA
2 THE PACIFIER
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

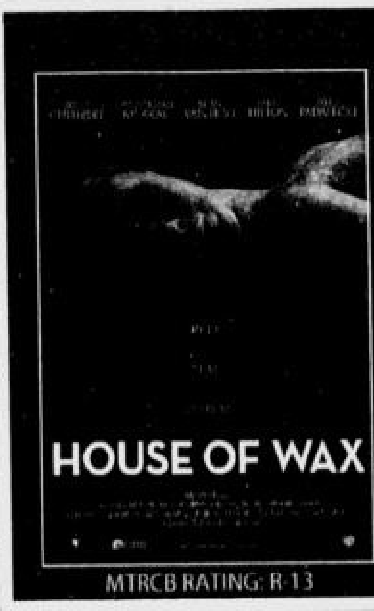
sm city cebu
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 CURSED
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

sm city iloilo
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 SAHARA
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 GUESS WHO
7 RESERVED
8 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city davao
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 FINDING NEVERLAND

sm city cagayan de oro
1 SAHARA
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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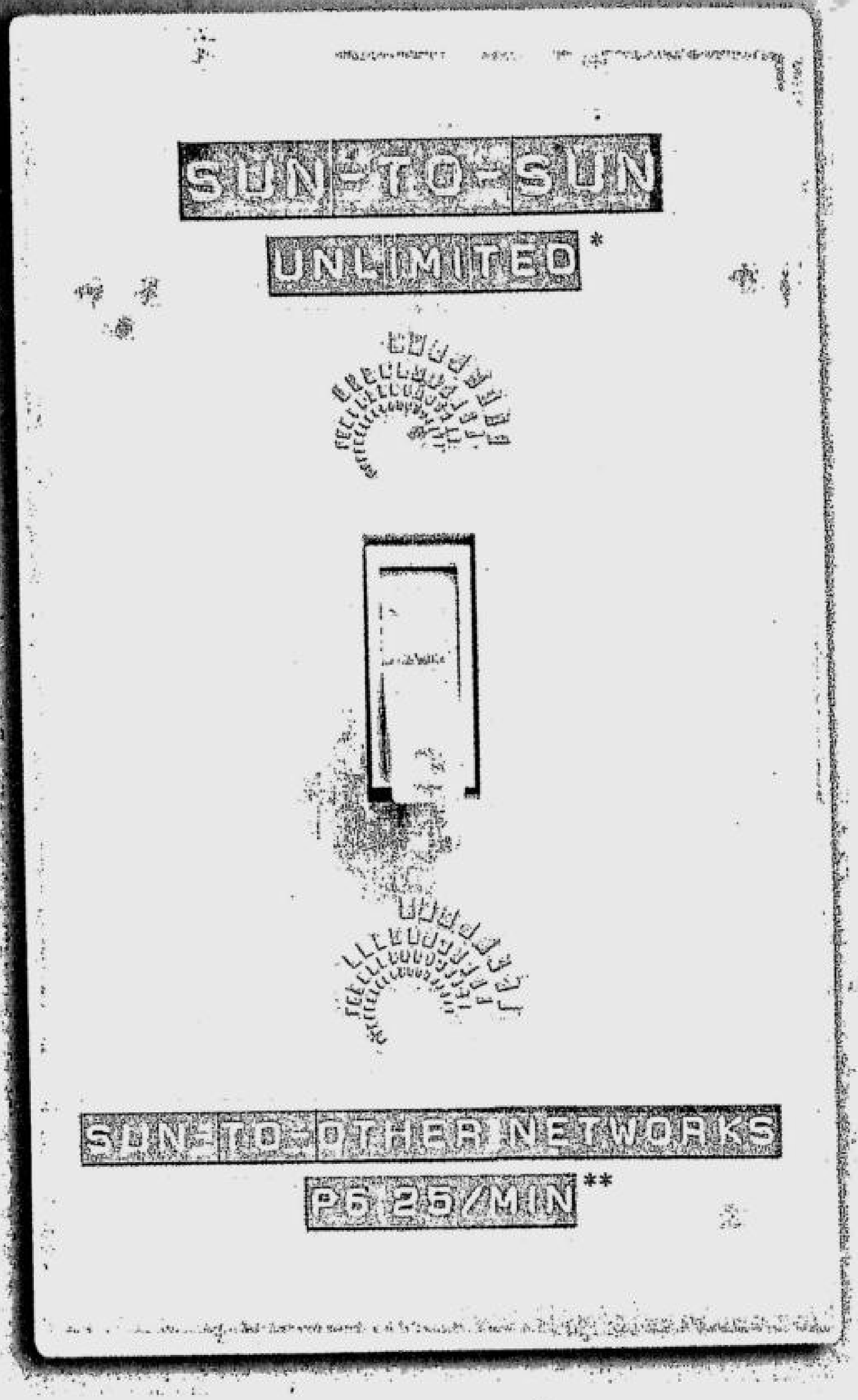
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SATURDAY

"THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY." Plays its sci-fi action cheekily for laughs.

Sci-fi films rule summer lineup

By Nestor U. Torre

ALL sorts of movies are being trotted out to regale film fans this summer, but the biggest potential blockbusters are sci-fi productions.

Steven Spielberg leads the way with "War of the Worlds," the master film storyteller's take on H.G. Wells' cautionary tale about the invasion of planet Earth by a murderous race from outer space.

When Wells' story was first made into a radio play in the 1930s by Orson Welles, its scarifying impact was so strong that it prompted thousands of listeners to flee their homes.

Version

Spielberg's version may not have the same effect, but it's expected to be terrifying enough to keep viewers on the edge of their seats from beginning to end. And the super-stellar presence of Tom Cruise spells additional money in the bank for the big-budget production.

But, it's expected to get strong competition from "Star Wars, Episode 3: Revenge of the Sith," for the simple reason that "Sith" is the last of George Lucas' "Star Wars" films. Naturally, many people want to see for themselves how the heretofore cute Luke Skywalker is transformed into the fearsome Darth Vader.

Finally, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" takes the most ordinary man in the world on a most extraordinary space adventure across the universe. And yet, the movie refuses to take itself seriously, and plays its sci-fi action cheekily for laughs.

Diverse elements

Thus, it's a send-up of other science-fiction film capers, which tend to take themselves oh, so seriously. Mixing diverse elements into a unique viewing experience, the movie is based on Douglas Dams' novel, which was considered ahead of its time, ever since it came out 20 years ago.

The film begins with its Everyman protagonist (Morgan Freeman) having a very bad day: His house is about to be bulldozed, his best friend turns out to be an alien, and planet Earth is about to be demolished to make way for a hyperspace freeway!

Freeman's only chance for survival is to hitch a quick ride on a passing spacecraft with the help of his best friend (Mos Def). Jetting off into the absolute unknown, Freeman makes some major discoveries about the true nature of the universe.

Meaning of life

He discovers the precise meaning of life. And he learns that the answer to everything anyone has ever wanted to know—and then some—can be found in the fantastic electronic book, "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

Playing the movie's other colorful characters are Sam Rockwell as the two-headed, three-armed president of the galaxy; Zooey Deschanel as his girlfriend; Bill Nighy as a planet designer, and John Malkovich as the leader of a religious cult.

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Jeffrey Jeturian is living his dream

By Rito P. Asilo

WE had a grand time chatting with "Bikini Open" director, Jeffrey Jeturian, and Seiko Films producer, Robbie Tan, last Tuesday. Jeff and I weren't really strangers to each other because, some years ago, I acted in two episodes of "Maalaala Mo Kaya," which Jeturian directed. But, we never went beyond the obligatory pleasantries because tapings for those shows were always so rushed.

This time, though, we learned so much about the director who boosted the sex-comedy genre when his 2003 Metro Manila Filmfest entry, "Bridal Shower," wowed the public and critics alike with its zany situational comedy; winsome, out-of-the-box performances from Cherry Pie Picache, Francine Prieto and Dina Bonnevie, and its snippets of unforced social commentary. The film proved that, in the right hands, the touchy, testy subject of sex could be fun and instructive, too!

Favorite

The director is proud of his cinematic oeuvre. Like a proud father, he refuses to choose a favorite among his six "babies," because "I put so much work into them." Indeed, the finished products speak for themselves. They may differ in genre and content, but they're unified by underlying themes of social alienation and irony—substantial topics that have rich potential for satire, and are ideal takeoff points for comic situations.

He insists, "If the story doesn't excite me, I don't do it. It took one year before Robbie and I finally agreed on a project ('Bridal Shower') to collaborate on. After its commercial and critical success, I was offered nine projects. Since I always get invited to sit as a judge in bikini competitions, I figured that this subject matter could be a rich source of comic situations because it has the elements of a good commercial film: sex, comedy and satire.

"As director, I adjust to the types of films Seiko produces, but the movie has to go beyond the fun-and-sex veneer—it has to say something substantial, too!"

The original idea of "Bridal Shower," whose concept was inspired by Francois Ozon's "8 Women," wanted to satirize upper-class hypocrisy and sensibility, but the film ended up doing more than that.

In "Bikini Open," the creative team injected the idea of doing a satire on public affairs programs, their incursions into the private lives of people, and their penchant for sensationalizing journalism to generate high ratings.

Exploitation of media

Jeffrey adds, "The exploitation of media is rampant: Public affairs shows pretend to champion civic and charity causes. They reconcile estranged couples, bring together long-lost relatives—etc. With the ubiquitous celebrity sex videos coming out on TV, the issue has become even more timely. *Tama yung sinabi ni* Susan Roces about TV and media—that they feast on people's hurts and anguish!"

Where has this disarming sensitivity come from? Has he always known that he wanted to direct films? Jeturian recalls, "I was a high school sophomore when I saw Lino Brocka's 'Maynila, Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag.' After that, I knew I wanted to become a director. I loved 'Ganito Kami Noon,' 'Kisapmata' and 'Burlesk Queen.' While young people my age remembered the actors from their favorite films, I remembered the directors who created those great shots and wonderful stories.

Free screenings

"When I was at UP, I watched free screenings of the films of Francois Truffaut, Ingmar Bergman, Akira Kurosawa—sometimes, *pito lang kaming nanonood sa sinehan!* But, that exposure taught me that there were different storytelling options other than those churned out by Hollywood.

"Then, I attended a workshop conducted by Marilou Diaz Abaya for Mowelfund. Before I knew it, she got me to join her staff for Vilma Santos' 'Alyas Baby Tsina,' whose shooting lasted for six months! But, the experience taught me so much!"

Indeed, Jeturian has come a long way. He proves his box-office and artistic mettle once again in "Bikini Open." How different is his latest film from "Bridal Shower"? He beams, "It's tamer, but funnier—and it has skin, beauty and laughter!"

These days, what else does Jeffrey wish for? He muses, "I hope we can sell our movies for their content more than for the actors who carry them. Otherwise, I can't really ask for more. I used to dream of becoming a director. Now, I am living that dream!"

JETURIAN. Brocka's "Maynila" inspired him to make his own movies.

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Greenbelt Al Fresco Theaters presents
Saturday Night Fever
May 20&21, 2005

Greenbelt 1 Onstage

The Hitmakers Back Again
w/ Rico J. Puno, Haji Alejandro & Marco Sison
May 13 (Friday) 8:00 PM
For inquiries, please call 891-5610

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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	2 XXX 2	3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 XXX 2	3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SHATTERED GLASS	5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR	7 GUESS WHO
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 IN GOOD COMPANY	2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE AMITYVILLE HORROR GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE WEDDING DATE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 IN GOOD COMPANY GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR		
	3 IN GOOD COMPANY	4 GUESS WHO	5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 GUESS WHO	3 THE INTERPRETER	4 THE CURSED

5 DAYS TO GO

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BIKINI OPEN

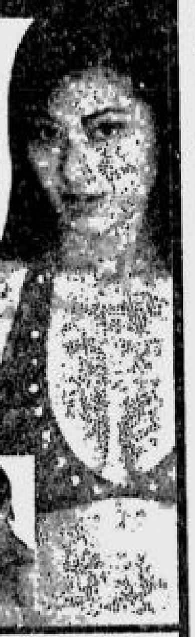
May 18 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

FREE Picture Taking & Autograph Signing
with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their BIKINI OPEN movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on May 18.

The film BIKINI OPEN is set to open on May 18 at Ayala Cinemas.

YES! FM

SMOKEY'S



Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4863; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

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- ① The Wedding Date
- ② XXX 2
- ③ Can This Be Love
- ④ Head in the Clouds

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

- ⑤ In Good Company
- ⑥ The Amityville Horror
- ⑦ Kingdom Of Heaven

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LILO & STITCH
ISLAND FAVORITES
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Directed by: Freddie Santos

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GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 XXX 2
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:45 1:35 4:25 7:15 10:00
6 IN GOOD COMPANY
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 SIX
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
8 THE WEDDING DATE
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
9 GUESS WHO?
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
2 SIX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00
5 XXX 2
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00
6 IN GOOD COMPANY
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00
7 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:55 2:10 4:25 6:40 9:00
2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40 9:00
3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
4 GUESS WHO?
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00
5 XXX 2
11:00 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10
6 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:30 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:55 1:55 4:55 7:55 10:30
8 SIX
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES
936-3229/31

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25
2 XXX 2
12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30
3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
4 GUESS WHO?
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX 2
4 AMITYVILLE HORROR

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 XXX 2
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE JACKET

CAINTA
240-4661

1 XXX 2
2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE JACKET
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 CURSED
5 BOSO

LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE PACIFIER
3 OK KA PARE KO
4 THE JACKET
5 SAHARA

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 862-2126
(046) 416-4332

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CURSED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 BOSO
5 XXX 2

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 THE JACKET
4 GUESS WHO?

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SIX
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1977
(045) 961-5270

1 XXX 2
2 SAHARA
3 GUESS WHO?
4 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0459

1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 SAHARA
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 XXX 2
6 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

ILOILO
(033) 336 8070

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 PARAISO
4 GUESS WHO?
5 SAHARA
6 THE WEDDING DATE

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'Memories of Love'

AT 8 tonight at Araneta Coliseum, pop-jazz artists Kevyn Lettau, Lou Pardini and Joe Pizzulo perform in a special concert, "Memories of Love." Lettau was discovered by Sergio Mendes, with whom she toured for eight years. Call 911-5555.

MONTAGE

The Farm

Have your fill of healthy dishes and hearty music at The Farm in Lipa, Batangas today. Call (02) 751-3498 or (02) 696-3175. The musical entertainment will be provided by The Robato Ensemble.

CORRALES. Asia's Queen of Songs performs tonight with Ding Malazo's Orchestra.

Jay-R's season to shine

Jay-R, Sun Cellular Prepaid's celebrity endorser, believes that Sun's 24/7 service is "a win-win deal, because it's a regular and permanent service, not just a promo. Besides, you get to choose from Sun's value-for-money services."

The popular singer is so involved in his Sun endorsement that he composed the jingle, for the first Sun Prepaid TV spot, and wrote and did the musical arrangement for "Seasons," the commercial that's currently being shown. "Seasons" is also part of Jay-R's latest album.

Parian Festival

At 9 a.m. today, the month-long Philippine Heritage Festival moves to the Parian at Intramuros (across the street from Lyceum University), which will be transformed into a virtual slice of Old Beijing. Colorful and exotic activities include lion, dragon and other dances, a *tiangge*, fortune-telling, calligraphy demonstration, martial arts, a film showing—etc.! Sponsors of the festival, which winds up tomorrow, are the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Metrobank Foundation.

'The Italian Job'

At 9 p.m. today, "The Italian Job" is the film on view on HBO. Mark Wahlberg leads a gang of expert thieves in pulling off an amazing gold bullion heist in Venice, only to discover that there's a double-crosser in their group.

'Vainglory'

The Ateneo Art Gallery presents "Vainglory," the 2005 BFA in Art Management Exhibition, ongoing until tomorrow. The show is curated by Clarissa Chikiamco and Francesca Tañada. Call 426-6488.

'Bond with Mom'

The Dreamscape family entertainment center at Robinsons Galleria brings back "Bond with Mom" starting at 2 p.m. today. Take the whole family and bond with celebrity mom Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, and enjoy the venue's many rides, amusement facilities and fun activities.

And, at 3 p.m. on May 15, watch moms and daughters glide down the catwalk as Dreamscape presents the "Mommy & Me Fashionistas" fashion show. Call 631-7594.

Pilita at Jools

At 9 p.m. today, Pilita Corrales sings at Jools Entertainment Bar, on P. Burgos st., Makati. Performing with Asia's Queen of Songs are the Jools Cabaret Dancers and the Ding Malazo Orchestra. Call 719-0595.

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2. Enclose the label or cap in a legal-sized envelope with a paper that has your name, address, phone number, PLUS the name of the outlet where you bought the B&B product.
3. Mail your entries on or before August 5, 2005 to Kino Consumer Philippines – 1234 Southbay Compound, Villonco Rd., Sucat, Parañaque.
4. **Grand Prize** (1 winner) : 4-night trip to Gold Coast, Australia inclusive of plane fare, hotel accommodations, admission to Australia's Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World, Paradise Country Aussie Farm Tour, and Wet 'n' Wild Water World, plus US$300 pocket money
   2nd Prize (5 winners) : 1 Powerpuff Girls Carnival Set each
   3rd Prize (10 winners) : 1 Powerpuff Girls Dress-Me-Up Fashion Dolls Set each
5. Raffle draw is on August 10, 2005.

See posters for details.

Get up close and personal with dolphins, sharks, polar bears, seals, and other marine life at Australia's Sea World. Plus, enjoy a day at Warner Bros. Movie World where everyone's a star. Experience the fun Gold Coast beach lifestyle at Wet 'n' Wild Water World. Visit a traditional Aussie farm where you can cuddle a koala... and much more!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0514 Series of 2005

In bloom for a Mayflower Festivity!
Mayflower Festival at Greenhills Shopping Center. Blooming from May 13 to June 5, 2005.

Everything is blooming this May at GSC. An array of gardening needs is arranged for a festival. With stalls of plants and flowers to choose from, complete with gardening products and landscape contractors to help beautify your home and garden. Then shop at the usual 1,000 stalls of bags, shoes, and accessories, while kids enjoy the food and entertainment choices. Enjoy the blossoms this May at the Mayflower Festival at GSC!

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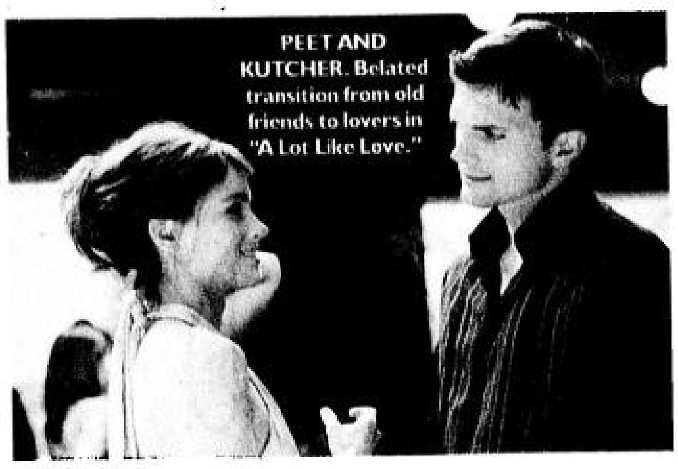
Springboard productions boost young stars' careers


PEET AND KUTCHER. Belated transition from old friends to lovers in "A Lot Like Love."

By Nestor U. Torre

"FEVER Pitch" is an interesting movie because it stars veteran actress Drew Barrymore and relative newcomer Jimmy Fallon. It's a potentially electric combination that should serve both stars well: Drew's career needs some jazzing up, while Fallon sure could use the stellar boost at this early stage of his transition from TV ("Saturday Night Live") to movie stardom.

In the comedy caper, Fallon plays Ben, a good catch who's charming, funny and great with kids. When he meets Lindsay (Barrymore), an ambitious business consultant whose spirit is as luminous as her beauty, their mutual attraction is immediate.

Complete opposites

But, they're complete opposites: She's a workaholic, while he takes his summers off; he lives and breathes the Red Sox—but she doesn't know anything about the baseball team!

Of course, when she realizes how much the team means to Ben, Lindsay tries to get fully involved in the team and its games, resulting in comic situations that directors Peter and Bobby Farrelly exploit to the hilt.

Also in the romantic comedy mode is "A Lot Like Love," starring Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet. Kutcher is better known than Peet, thanks to the lighthearted hits he's starred in recently, but Peet is no pushover in the acting department, having cut her teeth in some dramas ("Identity," "Playing by Heart").

Nigel Cole's film appeals to yuppies because it's about the messy, complicated game that love has become in the 21st century.

The film follows Oliver (Kutcher) and Emily (Peet) over a seven-year period, from young adulthood to their late 20s—constantly moving from place to place, shifting careers, changing partners, and redefining their dreams as they figure out what life is *really* all about.

All the while, they're searching everywhere for true love—not realizing that it's staring them right in the face! Their belated transition from old friends to lovers results in surprising developments that keep viewers both entertained and involved.

For a radical change of pace, five more young performers are acting together, but in a gripping horror-thriller, "House of Wax," about a strange town in which all of the "residents" are wax figures.

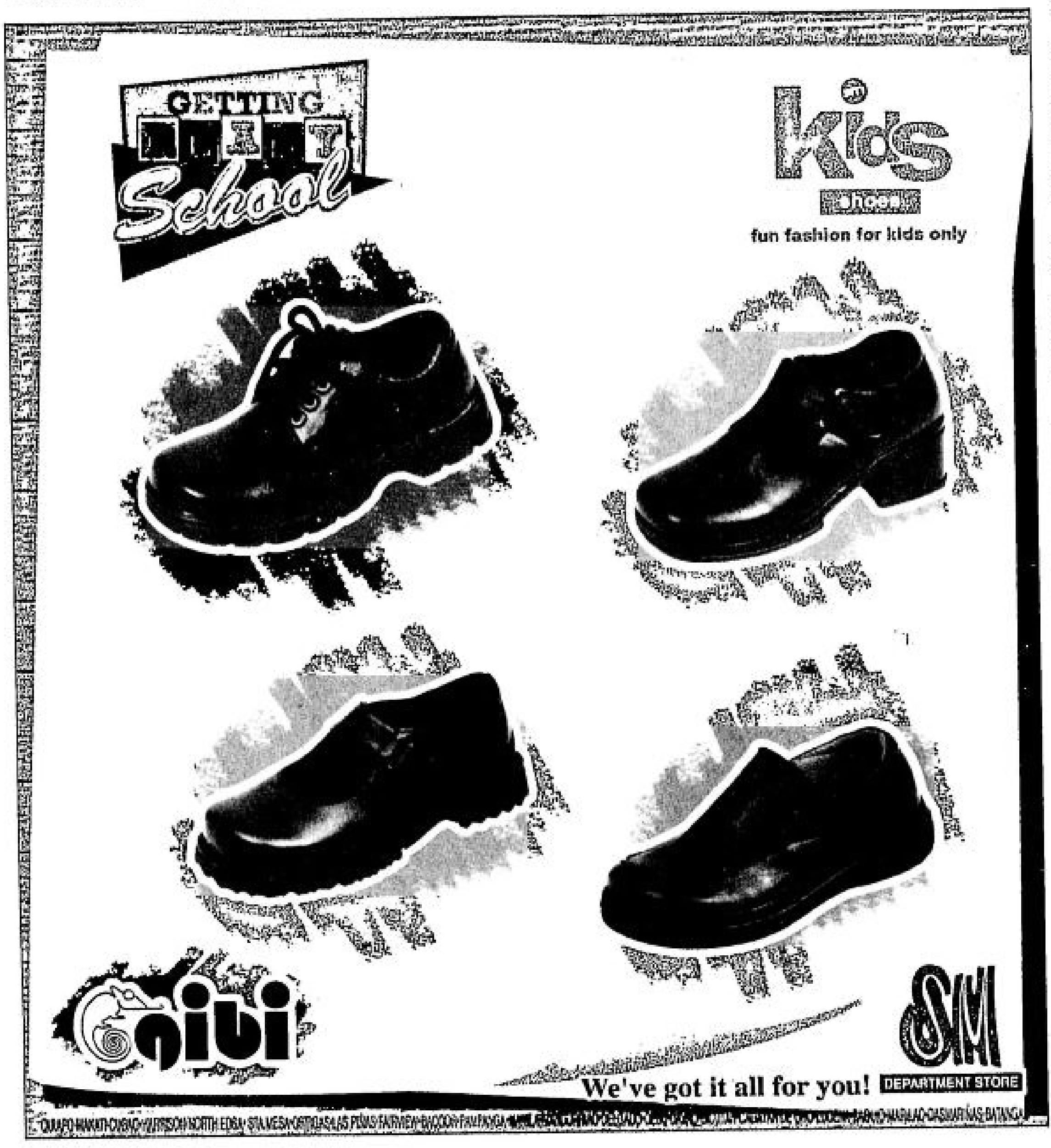
The film tells the harrowing story of six young friends on a road trip that takes a terrifying turn that threatens their very lives.

Elements

The 2005 production harks back to the original 1953 horror classic starring Vincent Price, but adds many elements that makes the new movie attractive to young-adult viewers.

To make it even easier for teen viewers to relate to the film, it stars youthful faves Elisha Cuthbert (TV's "24"), Chad Murray ("A Cinderella Story"), Brian Van Holt ("SWAT"), Jared Padalecki (Flight of the Phoenix") and Paris Hilton (TV's "The Simple Life").

The three movies we've featured here give their relatively young leads' careers a big boost precisely when they need it most—when they're starting to define their screen personas, for fans to relate to and fall in love with.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How I got my first Pitoy Moreno barong

By Behn Cervantes

I HAVE have known Pitoy for many years. Even before I entered UP in 1956, he was already an established couturier.

He had became a name to contend with in Philippine haute couture, following in the footsteps of the grandest couturier of them all, Ramon Valera.

Fraternity

In UP, I joined the Upsilon Sigma Phi, the same fraternity that Pitoy had joined much earlier. I also became a student of his sister, poetess Virginia Moreno. Pitoy was someone I would bump into regularly. He would make it a point to greet me as *"Brod"* (for brother) but, despite his apparent warmth, I felt rather distant from his world of fashion.

Last year, I accepted Jalilo de la Torre's invitation to direct "Saplotsaysay," the Independence Day Celebration production of the Philippine Embassy in Israel. I agreed to stage a fashion show provided I could trace the development of Philippine wear according to historical, political and economic events. I then asked friends in Manila to lend me samples of Philippine fashions for the show.

Hesitation

After Ben Farrales agreed to lend me some of his creations, he recommended that I call up Pitoy. After some hesitation, I did. Asia's "fashion czar" was more than willing to help. He instructed me to go to his place and pick up "a few items."—He lent me six spectacular Moreno gowns!

With the fashion contributions of other friends, "Saplotsaysay" was a spectacular success!

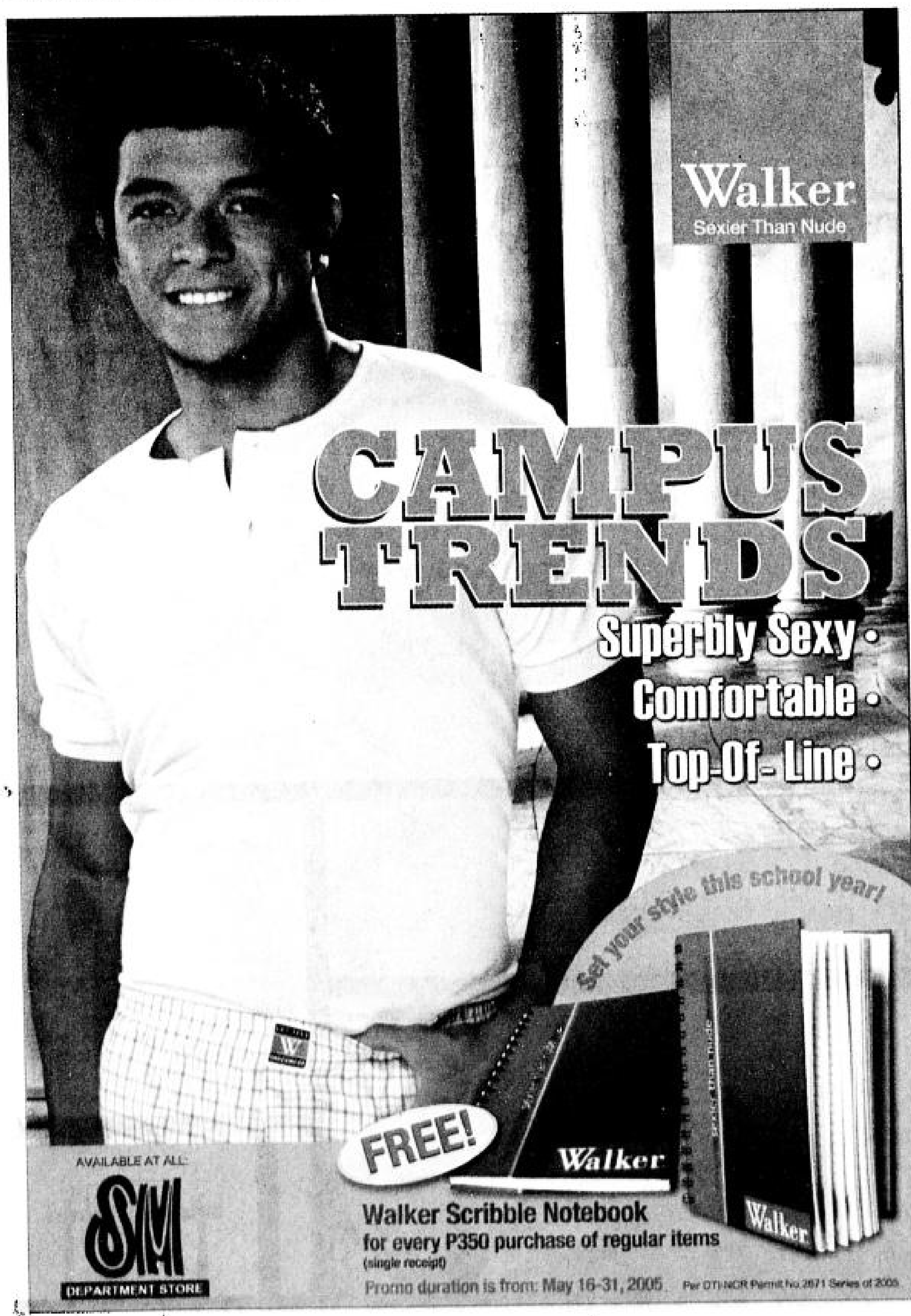
MORENO. More than willing to help.

A few days ago, I headed for Pitoy's atelier in Malate to return the gowns I'd borrowed. Pitoy was as gracious as ever. He inquired how I was, and related Nena del Rosario Villanueva's story about her benefit concert for my sister, Esther. Then, Pitoy asked: "Do you want a *barong*? Do you want it in *jusi*, *piña* or linen?"

Generous offer

Since the generous offer came from out of the blue, I was momentarily tongue-tied. Pitoy urged me: "Don't say no!" He quickly called his tailor, who promptly got my measurements.

What a day! Pitoy gifted me with his book and my first Moreno, and then asked his driver to take me to the Inquirer, where I wanted to surprise NUT with an early birthday greeting. I could only look up and say, "Manna"—like this comes from You. —*Shalom* and *salamat*, Pitoy!



How to eat for better health

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

PEOPLE eat in different ways. Some gobble up their food, while others make an art of it. Does it matter? Definitely! How we eat also affects our health.

In "Cooking Naturally for Pleasure and Health," authors Gail Watson and Michael Blate share guidelines on how to eat for better health:

1. Eat the right diet for the climate or region in which you live—eat regionally and seasonally, emphasizing fresh foods grown within 50 miles of your home.

2. Food should be chewed at least 30 times per mouthful. This will help restore acid/ alkaline balance within the digestive system, which is vital for proper digestion and assimilation.

Proper chewing

Thorough chewing accomplishes several things: analysis (taste is developed and, if the food is bad, it can be spat out); proper chewing restricts excess food intake while providing complete nutrition; proper chewing massages important digestive acupressure points in the mouth and jaw to improve digestion.

3. Eat moderately—avoid food extremes (e.g. excessively large, salty, sweet, and/or highly spiced meals, etc.).

4. Eat with an eye to the medical repercussions of food. If it tastes sweet, it will affect—and, in large amounts, injure—the spleen, pancreas and stomach. If it tastes salty, in large amounts, it will injure the kidneys and urinary bladder.

Liver

If it tastes sour, large amounts will injure the liver and gallbladder. If it tastes bitter, large quantities will injure the heart and small intestine. And if it tastes spicy or pungent, in quantity, it will injure the lungs and large intestine.

5. Discover—and avoid—any hidden food (or other) allergens.

6. Avoid food and drinks that are too hot or too cold. Food is best eaten at body temperature, since extreme temperatures injure the digestive tract. Food or drink that is too cold could injure the lungs, liver and gallbladder, while food that is too hot injures the stomach, spleen, pancreas, small intestine and heart.

7. Drink as little as possible with meals—ideally, wait at least a half-hour after eating (excess liquids in the stomach dilute the hydrochloric acid necessary for proper food assimilation).

Generations

8. Learn to use and enjoy *miso*, tofu, seaweeds and other tasty-yet-unusual traditionally Oriental foods. These have evolved over generations of logical, not haphazard eating.

9. Avoid eating frequently in restaurants. Their portions are too large—and cost, not quality, is ordinarily their ultimate guiding light.

10. Substitute carob for chocolate, fruit juices for sugary, carbonated softdrinks, herbal teas for coffee and other caffeinated drinks.

BUSINESS

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Net 'hot' money inflow surges to $1.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NET inflow of foreign portfolio investments to the Philippines in the first four months of the year rose to $1.72 billion, about 11 times higher than the $146.5 million posted in the same period last year, due to renewed investor interest in local stocks.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that for the month of April alone, the net inflow of 'hot' money jumped to $279.8 million from $45.2 million in the same month last year.

Record showed that the bulk of the inflow represented investments in securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"The stock market has been performing positively. We have seen the (PSE composite or Phisix) index reach a five-year high of 2,172.76 in early March," BSP Officer-in-Charge Amando Tetangco said.

The substantial increase in hot money inflows during the period helped the peso gain strength against the US dollar.

Net inflow is realized when total registered foreign portfolio investments exceed the aggregate amount of capital repatriated or outflows in a given period.

Portfolio investments are also called hot money because they can be pulled out or transferred anytime.

From January to April, the total hot money inflow reached $2.86 billion, while the amount of capital repatriated overseas hit only $1.14 billion.

In April, inflows amounted to $783 million while outflows reached $503.2 million.

The increased inflow to the stock market was fueled by huge foreign interest in the initial public offerings held by big firms SM Investment Corp. and Manila Water Co.

Government securities and money market instruments also helped boost total inflow.

The BSP expects the strong portfolio investment inflows to be sustained for the rest of the year, especially with the favorable developments in the government's fiscal reform program.

The International Monetary Fund's third highest official, in a visit to the country early this week, said the passage of the value-added tax reform measure, for instance, would help the Philippines reduce its fiscal vulnerabilities.

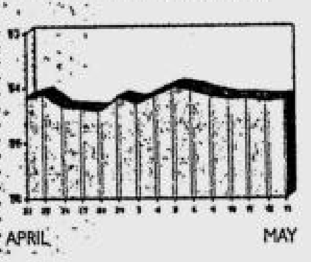
IMF deputy managing director Agustin Carstens, who was in town for a capital market forum, said the Fund had been encouraging the country to front-load its fiscal reform program.

"At this stage, we do not have all the details on the final VAT package but we trust that it will generate sufficient revenue to facilitate a large first step towards balancing the budget and reassure markets about the authorities' commitment to tackling the fiscal problem," he said.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱54.200 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 13, 2005

¥106.91 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 13, 2005

GOLD: $426.00-426.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 10, 2005

United States	Dollar	0.787216	1.000000	54.2180
Japan	Yen	0.007375	0.009369	0.5080
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469181	1.866300	101.1871
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100945	0.128231	6.9524
Switzerland	Franc	0.647967	0.823113	44.6275
Canada	Dollar	0.628967	0.798977	43.3189
Singapore	Dollar	0.475860	0.604485	32.7740
Australia	Dollar	0.603461	0.766577	41.5623
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.088216	2.652661	143.8220
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209919	0.266660	14.4578
Brunei	Dollar	0.474427	0.602664	32.6752
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000106	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019942	0.025332	1.3735
UAE	Dirham	0.214337	0.272272	14.7620
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.270300	68.8731
Argentina	Peso	0.271922	0.345423	18.7281
Brazil	Real	0.319876	0.406339	22.0309
Denmark	Kroner	0.134404	0.170733	9.2568
India	Rupee	0.018181	0.023095	1.2522
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207190	0.263193	14.2698
Mexico	New Peso	0.071559	0.090902	4.9285
New Zealand	Dollar	0.565854	0.718804	38.9721
Norway	Kroner	0.123570	0.156971	8.5107
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013231	0.016807	0.9112
South Africa	Rand	0.125854	0.159872	8.6679
Korea	Won	0.000788	0.001001	0.0543
Sweden	Kroner	0.108438	0.137749	7.4685
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025147	0.031944	1.7319

STOCK MARKET

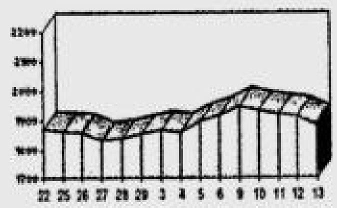
Stocks down 1.54%

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.54 percent lower as investors took what profits there were for a fourth straight session following Wall Street's sharp decline overnight, dealers said.

Investors also took to the

STOCKS/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

OFW remittances up 16.6% in 1st quarter

REMITTANCES from migrant Filipinos rose by 16.6 percent in the first quarter to $2.3 billion from a year ago, on rising overseas incomes and higher amount of cash coursed through banks, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

In the month of March alone, foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) grew by 15.9 percent over a year ago to $840 million.

"The continuing rise in remittances from overseas workers during the quarter resulted largely from the sustained marketing efforts of commercial banks to convince OFWs to course remittances through banking channels," BSP Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said. Earlier studies estimated that about $2 billion in OFW remittances yearly were not coursed through banks and other formal channels.

Tetangco said the continued deployment of higher paid workers, such as nurses, engineers and musicians, as well as the rising demand for Filipino seamen resulted in the higher level of remittances during the period.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said there was a 0.2 percent rise in total deployment of OFWs during the first three months of the year.

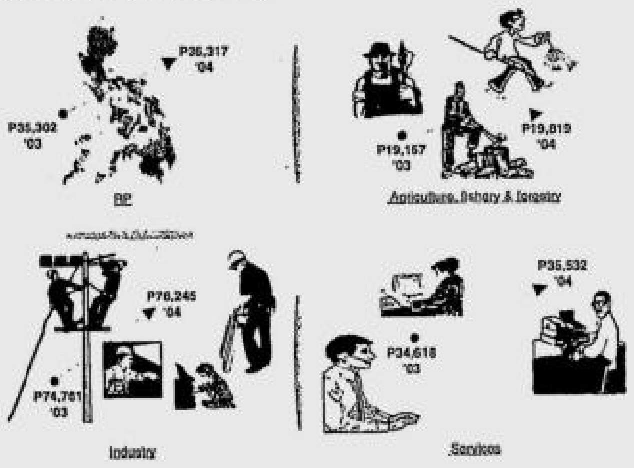
By type of worker, the number of sea-based OFWs increased by 6.7 percent to 61,389 while land-based workers declined by 1.6 percent to 196,030. The decline in the land-based OFWs was

OFW/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Labor productivity
(2003 & 2004, in pesos)



Sources: Department of Labor & Employment-National Wages & Productivity Commission

LABOR productivity improved by 2.87 percent in 2004 compared to the previous year. It was also the highest in the last five years. This led to a 6.15 percent gross domestic product growth last year. Labor productivity is defined as the value of output per worker.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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Globe asks NTC to stop PLDT's ₱10/call promo

By Clarissa S. Batino

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to stop the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. from offering the P10-per-call promo for all calls within PLDT and those going to Smart Communications Inc.

In a motion filed with the NTC dated May 9, Globe's wholly-owned unit Innove Communications Inc. said that PLDT's P10 promo was "discriminatory" and violated the regulator's policy prohibiting preferential tariff.

Froilan Castelo, Globe assistant vice president, said that if the NTC would not stop PLDT's promo, then it must require the telco giant to offer the same promo to Innove and Globe.

Innove operates Globe's fixed-line and data business as well as the Touch Mobile brand.

"Under the NTC rules on wholesale pricing, no carrier can give preferential treatment to another carrier at the expense of the others," Castelo said during an interview. "This is discriminatory pricing because it is only offered to PLDT, Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers."

The NTC on May 11 ordered PLDT to reply within 5 days from the receipt of the letter why it had not been offering the P10-per-call promo to Innove and Globe, according to NTC chair Ronald Solis.

But Butch Jimenez, head of PLDT retail responsible for the P10 promo, said the NTC could not disallow what it had already approved.

"Our P10-call promo has NTC approval," the PLDT official said. "I can't see any reason why the NTC would issue a CDO against a promo that it had approved."

The P10-per-call rate applies to all PLDT calls anywhere in the country, as well as to all Smart and Talk 'N Text mobile subscribers regardless of how long the call takes. PLDT has more than 23 million fixed-line and wireless customers all over the country.

"Our promo is beneficial to the public," Jimenez said. "I suggest Innove come up with a scheme beneficial to their subscribers instead of forcing us to increase our prices."

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 24, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 25, 2004
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2004
5. Approval of the 2004 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

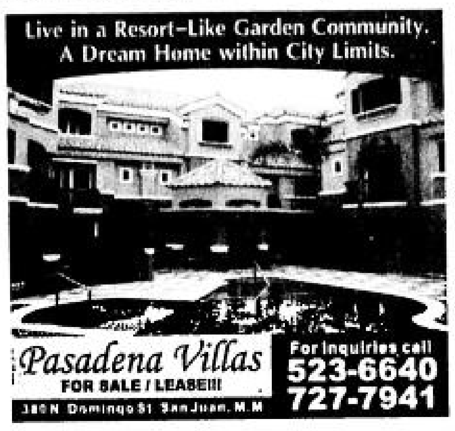
Minutes of the 2004 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2004 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 25, 2005 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2005. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2005, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 4, 2005

(SGD.) RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary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Customs misses April collection target by 6%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs missed its collection target for April by about 6 percent as its new leadership continues to grapple with the problems of smuggling and corruption.

The BOC, which accounts for about 20 percent of the national government's revenues, said its April collection stood at only P12.789 billion compared with its target of P13.453 percent. However, the latest collection figure was higher than the P10.576 billion recorded during the same month last year.

"Our April collection was down because of lower volume of importation," said BOC Deputy Commissioner Celso Templo. "If imports are low, then our collection will also be low."

The National Statistics Office has yet to release imports data for March and April, but latest figures showed that decline in imports started early in the year when it dropped to $5.962 billion in January to February. The figure was 3.4 percent lower than the $6.173 billion recorded during the same period last year.

The BOC's April collection brought the bureau's cumulative revenues to P43.955 billion, or 4.5 percent lower than its four-month target of P46.040 billion.

The BOC, which last year surpassed all its monthly targets under former Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, has been having difficulty meeting its revenue goals since early in the year after the government substantially raised its collection objectives.

The Department of Finance, its head agency, said the BOC is tasked to collect P151 billion this year. Its 2005 target is 26 percent higher than its P112-billion target for 2004, and 19 percent higher than the P122 billion it actually collected last year.

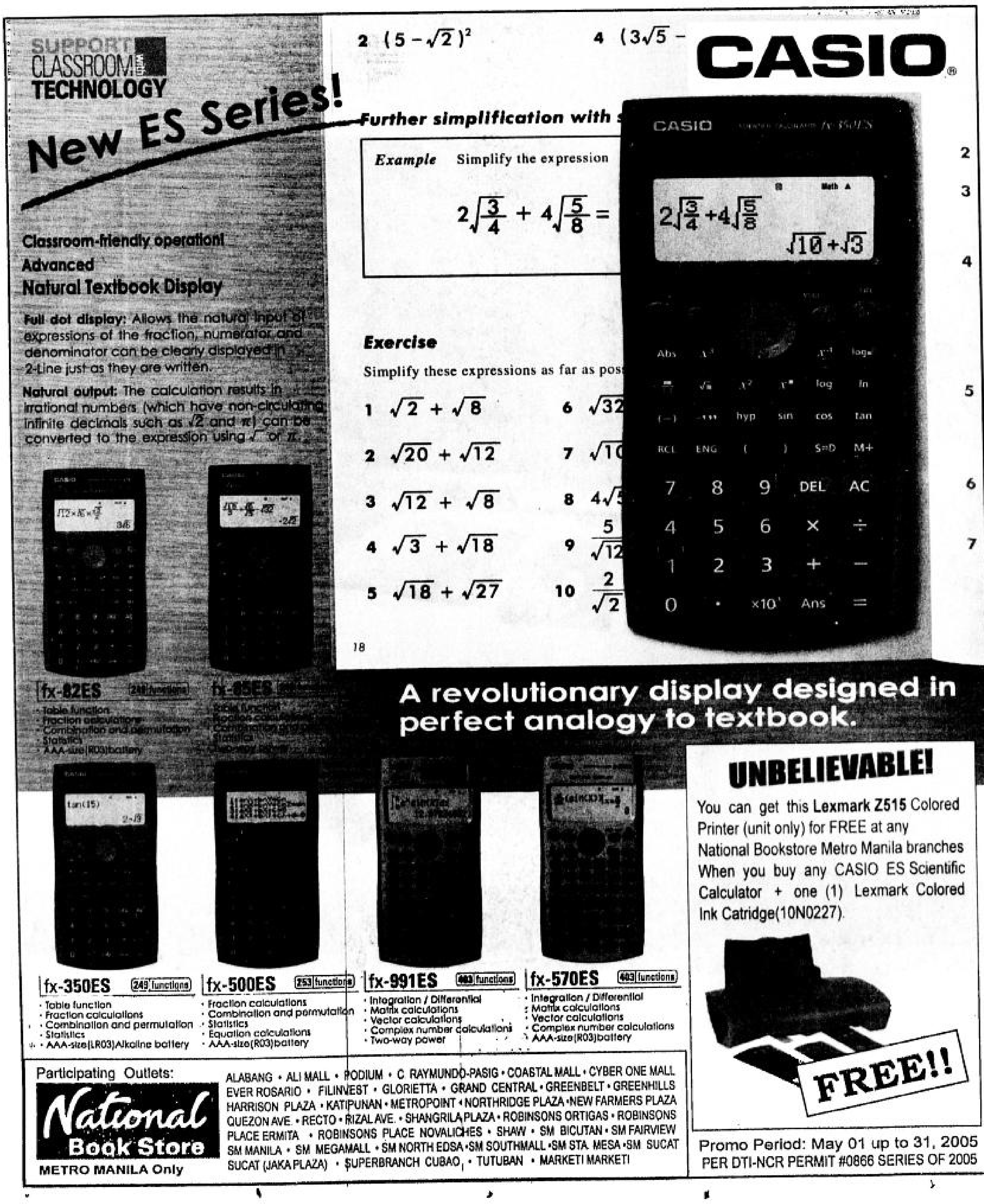
Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier said the BOC's failure to meet its targets early in the year was partly due to its high targets. But he said that the bureau would still likely meet its full-year collection goal once the revenue-raising measures of newly appointed Commissioner Alberto Lina impact goes into full swing.

Lina earlier said the BOC has tightened its anti-smuggling drive by implementing various measures. One is to require importers to open letters of credit with banks, and pay duties ahead of the arrival of imports shipment. The advance payment would alert the BOC of the coming shipments. The bureau would then have time to prepare for the task of inspecting the imported goods.

The Customs has also issued a directive prohibiting ships from transporting second-hand and left-hand-drive vehicles into the country, Lina said. The alleged entry of smuggled vehicles into the country has been blamed for the decline of the local car-manufacturing industry.

The BOC also has launched the RATS (run after the smugglers) program, under which it intends to file smuggling charges against identified suspects every two weeks.

The BOC is hard-pressed to curb the perennial problem of smuggling, which is estimated to cost the deficit-ridden government some P200 billion in lost revenue each year.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Honor your commitment to John Hay, BCDA told

BAGUIO CITY—Establishments operating in Camp John Hay have appealed to the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and its local subsidiary, John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), for indemnification or a written guarantee from BCDA that the agency will honor its warranty to provide tax and duty exemptions to locators at the John Hay Special Economic Zone.

The Supreme Court, in a resolution dated March 29, 2005, invalidated the John Hay Special Economic Zone tax and duty exemptions enjoyed by the establishments, which include the Camp John Hay Manor, Golf Club and the Mile Hi Center that houses 18 enterprises.

According to sub-locators, concessionaires and residents of Camp John Hay, as well as the CJH Development Corp., they set up shop in Camp John Hay "on the assumption that [they] would enjoy for fifty years the SEZ tax and duty exemptions spelled out in the JHSEZ Implementing Rules and Regulations.

"We would appreciate a written assurance from CJHDevCo, JHMC and BCDA that we would be held free and harmless from any adverse consequences of the Supreme Court resolution as well as a written continuing guarantee on our enjoyment of the tax and duty exemptions within the JHSEZ," said Camp John Hay Manor General Manager Heinrich Maulbecker.

Atty. Gina Alvarez, CJHDevCo spokesperson, has assured the John Hay locators that CJHDevCo is doing everything within its power to protect their rights and interest in the SEZ.

OFW remittances . . .

From page B1

traced to the stricter documentation procedure imposed by the government to ensure compliance with immigration laws of host countries.

"The concerted efforts of both the public and private sectors in further upgrading the skills and quality of Filipino workers to meet global standards and the increasing demand by host economies for foreign workers to address labor shortages are expected to provide further boost to remittance flows," he explained.

Among the major sources of OFW remittances were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

The Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. In 2004, OFW inflows pumped in a record-high of $8.5 billion to the economy.

The International Monetary Fund, for its part, has urged developing countries to intervene in lowering transaction costs so as to maximize the benefits of these inflows. *Doris C. Dumlao*

4 firms preparing for oil, gas exploration work

By Abigail L. Ho

FOUR service contractors of the Department of Energy are scheduled to start exploring for oil and gas this month, paving the way for the discovery of new commercial reserves.

Forum Exploration Inc., Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex), Premier Oil Philippines BV and Sterling Energy (UK) Ltd. will conduct seismic surveys on their exploration blocks to help them pinpoint sites for future drilling.

Japex started its initial surveys early this week, using the M/S Veritas Searcher over the Tanon Strait in Negros Occidental.

The Japanese firm holds Service Contract 46, which allows it to explore for oil and gas resources in the area.

The government-owned Tokyo Stock Exchange-listed firm will be investing around $12.7 million in its seven-year exploration program.

Forum Exploration, the Philippine arm of Canadian firm Forum Energy Corp., is set to conduct its own seismic surveys in offshore northern Cebu, which is covered by SC 40.

The Netherlands' Premier Oil will be doing initial exploration development works over the Ragay Gulf in the Bicol Region before month's end, while UK-based Sterling Energy will be conducting a marine seismic survey in Reed Bank, Northwest Palawan.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the hunt for new petroleum reserves had attracted huge investments due mainly to the escalating oil prices in the world market.

After more than a decade of inactivity, oil and gas exploration works had again picked up, boosting the Philippines' chances at attaining its goal of 60-percent energy self-sufficiency by 2010.

Lotilla said these new oil and gas exploration activities would reduce dependence on imported fuel, thus easing the impact of foreign exchange volatility on the country.

Since December last year, following the Supreme Court decision declaring the Philippine Mining Act constitutional, the DOE has awarded six service contracts for petroleum exploration.

These six contracts carry an aggregate initial investment value of $42.55 million.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 13, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	28.5	29	28.5	28.5	349,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	48.5	49	731,900
China Banking Corp.	790	790	790	790	10
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	900,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47	47	47	23,600
International Exch. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33	32	32	424,500
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	70
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	39,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	48,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	5,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	280	290	280	290	1,030
Manulife Financial Corp.	2400	2430	2400	2430	180
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	930,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	1,200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1675	1675	1670	1675	400
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	12.75	13	107,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	3,591,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	825	825	815	815	68,980
Ipeople Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	26,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	1,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	75,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	942,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1400	1410	1400	1405	325,190
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.61	750,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	16	16	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23.5	23.75	947,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	3,535,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.35	3.4	1,234,000
Traps-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	95,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	383,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	110,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	414,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	116,600
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57.5	58	61,400
San Miguel Corp. B	85	85	84.5	85	11,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	3,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	2,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.3	7	7	3,701,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	1,777,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	2	2	50,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,430,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	67,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1	1.02	0.98	1	11,070,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	360,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	9,420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.32	3,330,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.55	1,983,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.035	900,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8.1	8	8	370,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	48	46.5	47	307,500
Forum Pacific Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	250,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0825	0.0875	0.0825	0.0875	2,200,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	16,000
Ionics Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	25,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	16,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	535,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	21,450,000
SM Investments Corp.	247	248	247	248	1,271,450
South China Resources Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.18	3,970,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.3	1.18	1.3	27,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,000,000
Pryce Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	500,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	340,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.16	3,742,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	1,467,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	3,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	13.75	13.75	12.5	12.5	809,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.6	5,080,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	60,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	650,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	5,510,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	5,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	1,512,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	20,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5	5	5	5	130,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,824,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	100,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	29,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.85	4.85	4.55	4.55	247,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.5	8.5	8	8	53,000
Benguet Corp. B	43	43	43	43	1,500
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,310,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	24,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	6,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.006	554,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.9	780,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,300,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30	28	29.5	829,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	27,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	31,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	4,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.155	2,770,000

Stocks down 1.54%

From page B1

sidelines in the absence of fresh domestic leads and on concerns the new value-added tax (VAT) bill passed by Congress may dent consumer spending and corporate profits, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 29.36 points to 1,882.39, off a low of 1,880.78. Turnover was 892 million shares worth P1.18 billion.

The broader all-shares index eased 13.74 points to 1,154.69.

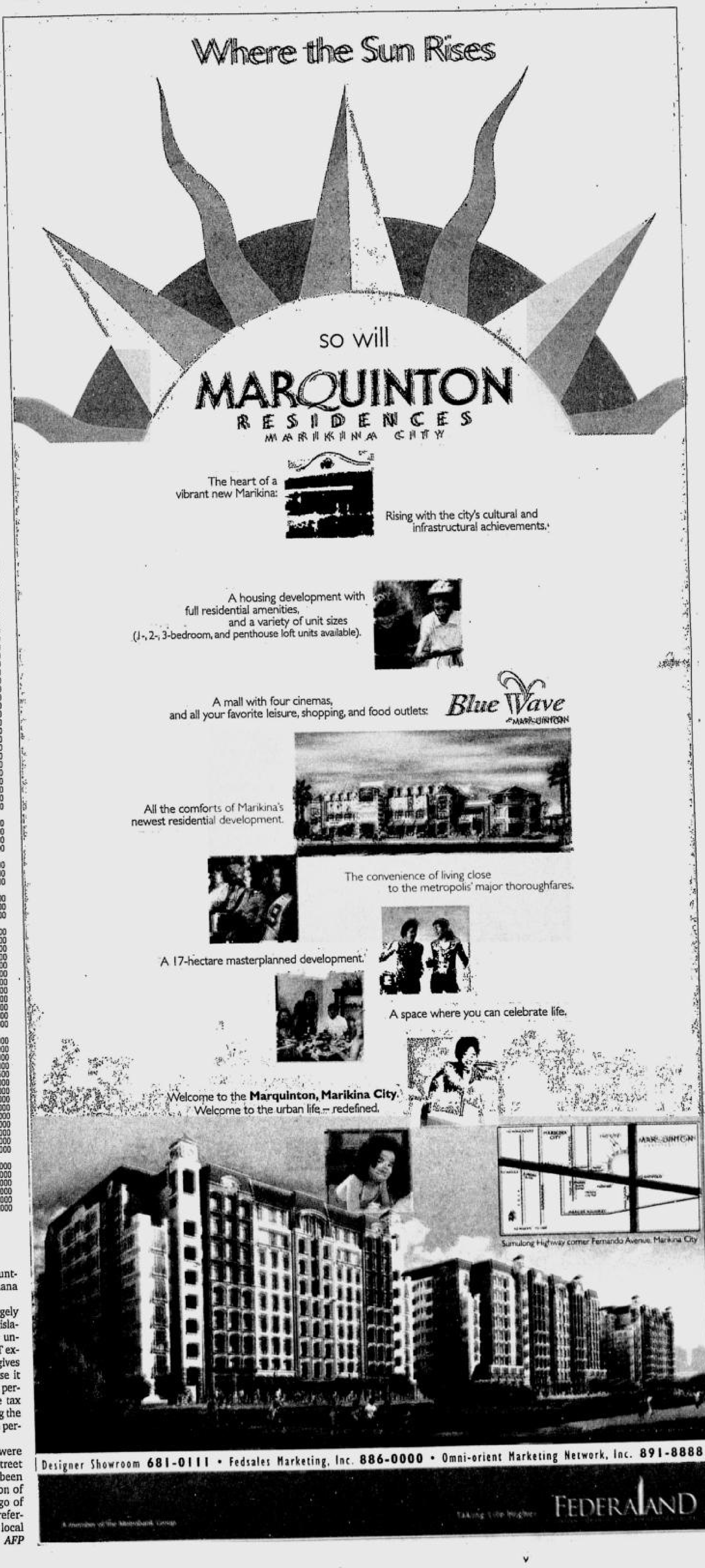
Losers outpaced gainers 61 to nine, with 48 stocks unchanged.

"The market moved lower primarily due to Wall Street's disappointing performance but given that we've already reached the 1,880 support, I will not be surprised to see some bargain-hunting next week," said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

He said investors have largely begun to look past the VAT legislation even if its provisions are unwelcome. The bill removes VAT exemption in certain industries, gives the President authority to raise it two percentage points to 12 percent next year and shifts the tax burden to companies by raising the corporate income tax by three percentage points to 35 percent.

"Most regional markets were affected by losses on Wall Street but the (impact here) has been magnified given the condition of our market," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities, referring to the small size of the local bourse.

AFP



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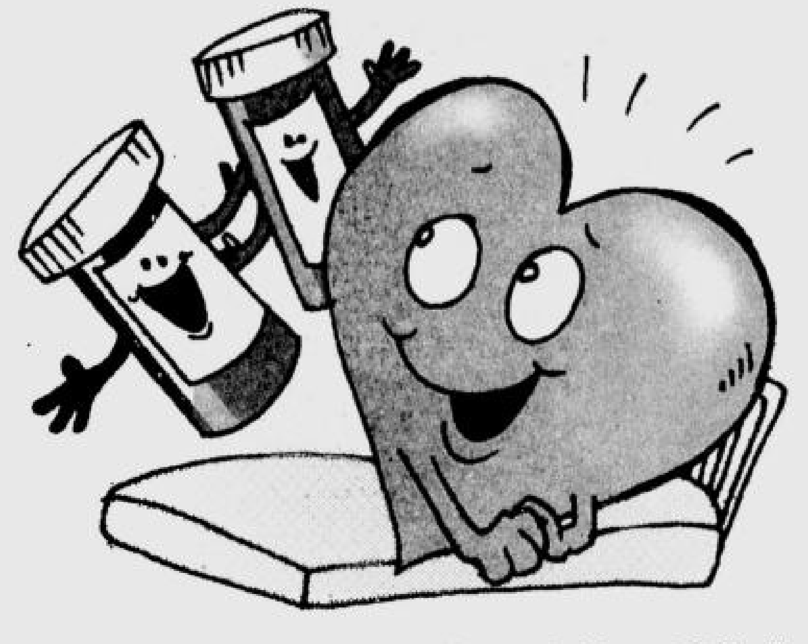
PREVENTING HEART ATTACK

2 therapies better than 1, say studies

By Charles E. Buban



PATIENTS who experience severe heart attack are usually given a therapy composed of fibrinolytic (clot-buster), heparin (anticoagulant) and aspirin (antiplatelet medication) to dissolve the clot blocking the coronary artery. The purpose is to reduce their risk of sudden death or being disabled.

However, even after this therapy, 20 percent to 25 percent of patients still have a blocked artery, putting them at continued risk.

Researchers recently announced that they may have found a new way to address this problem and provide greater hope for patients whose heart arteries remain blocked even after standard drug treatment.

2 trials

Cardiologist Saturnino Javier announced during the 38th annual convention of the Philippine College of Physicians that results of two major clinical trials showed that the antiplatelet agent clopidogrel (Plavix), given on top of standard therapy, provided significant benefits to patients with acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (Stemi), a certain kind of heart attack.

He said that in the CLopidogrel as Adjunctive ReperfusIon TherapY-Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction Study 28 (Clarity-Timi 28) trial, clopidogrel added to standard therapy including fibrinolytics and aspirin reduced by 36 percent the odds of having a blocked coronary artery, dying or having a second heart attack.

During the 30-day follow-up period, researchers observed a 31 percent reduction in the odds of a recurrent heart attack and a 20 percent reduction in the odds of dying from cardiovascular-related complications, recurrent heart attack or the need for urgent coronary revascularization, said Javier.

He quoted the study authors as saying that the findings represent the first advance in clot-busting drug treatment for heart attack in more than 10 years that improves mortality.

The trial involved 3,491 patients in 319 sites in 23 countries.

Reduced death

On the other hand, the ClOpidogrel and beta-blocker Metoprolol in Myocardial Infarction (Commit/CCS-2) trial found that the combination of clopidogrel and aspirin significantly reduced the relative risk of death by 7 percent, as well as cases of recurrent heart attack, stroke, or death cases by 9 percent.

The Commit/CCS-2 is considered one of the largest randomized drug trials in history after researchers from Oxford University in the United Kingdom and Fuwai Hospital in China enrolled 45,852 patients at 1,250 sites in China.

The two trials were supported by grants from Sanofi-Aventis and Bristol-Myers Squibb, the marketers of clopidogrel worldwide.

"These two trials show that the addition of clopidogrel may benefit essentially all types of patients coming to the hospital, including those who have experienced an acute heart attack," said Javier.

Although bleeding is a concern with antiplatelet medications such as aspirin, Javier reported that in the two studies, the rate of major bleeding in the clopidogrel group was 1.3 percent, almost similar to the 1.1 percent observed in the placebo group.

"This means the addition of the drug did not increase the risk of intracranial hemorrhage, a rare but dreaded complication of clot-buster therapy and a limiting factor in prior attempts to improve therapy to restore blood flow," said Javier.

10 M affected

Javier said heart attacks affect 10 million patients worldwide each year, of whom four million have severe attacks due to a completely blocked coronary artery that requires clot-busting medication or angioplasty, a procedure where a tiny balloon is inserted into the blocked blood vessel and expanded to break up the blockage.

"Heart attacks are caused by the reduction of blood flow to the heart because of a partially or completely blocked artery," said Javier.

The mathematics of party lists

(Last of 3 parts)

FOR THE LAST two weeks, we have looked at my Ateneo de Manila colleague Dr. Felix P. Muga II's [fmuga@ateneo.edu] analysis of five house bills proposed as amendments to Republic Act 7941, the Party-List System Act. Dr. Muga used three indices as the basis for his analysis. Let us conclude the discussion.

The last bill, House Bill 3302, introduced by Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales, Mario Joyo Aguja and Anna Theresia Hontiveros-Baraquel, has three rounds of seat allocation and adopts 1.8 percent both as a formal vote threshold the actual winning minimum percentage.

The parties who are qualified to win are called the winning minimum percenters. These parties receive one guaranteed seat each in the first round. The remaining number of seats from the first round is allocated to the qualified parties in the second round. Each party is awarded a number of seats equal to the integer portion of the quotient when the party's share of all the votes of the winning minimum percenters is divided by 1.8 percent.

If there are remaining seats after the second round, these are allocated in the third round similar to the second round of the Barinaga proposal.

52 out of 53 seats

If the Rosales et al. proposal is applied to the 2004 party-list election, the index of representation is 98.113 percent, for a total of 52 seats out of 53. It has a high index of proportionality of 93.987 percent. There are 19 winning parties and there are no second-chance parties. Hence, the index of elasticity is 0 percent.

If no winning parties are affected by the cap or limit on the number of seats that a party may win, the Rosales et al. proposal and the Barinaga proposal are equivalent with the following adjustments:

- The two proposals shall have equal formal vote thresholds.
- The Rosales et al. proposal shall use the natural value for the actual winning minimum percentage.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

Conclusion

What then can we conclude? We find that a method which uses 1) an extra round to allocate the remaining party-list seats, 2) a natural value for the winning minimum percentage, and 3) a higher cap in the number of seats results in a very high if not a perfect index of representation and a very high index of proportionality. This is shown in the Barinaga and the Rosales et al. proposals.

We also find that a method which uses a zero value of the formal vote threshold and an extra round results in a very high index of elasticity, but reduces the index of proportionality. See the Ocampo et al. proposal.

A small value of the formal vote threshold serves as a natural cap for the number of seats. For example, when the formal vote threshold of the Barinaga proposal is at 2 percent, the number of seats received by Bayan Muna is eight out of 53 seats. But when it is lowered to 1 percent, Bayan Muna receives six seats only.

A value that is greater than ½ of the reciprocal of the total number of available seats for the party list produces a number of second-chance parties and a high index of proportionality.

Recommendation

Therefore, we recommend the adoption of a formal vote threshold that is equal to ½ × (1 / Total No. of Seats Available for the Party List) × 100 percent.

The percentage value is rounded up to two decimal places. We also recommend the use of two rounds of seat allocation similar to the Barinaga proposal.

If we apply this recommendation to the 2004 party-list election using Comelec Report No. 20, the formal vote threshold is equal to 0.95 percent, since 0.5 × 1/53 = 0.94340 percent. The index values are shown in the last row of Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of the Different Seat Allocation Methods on the 2004 Party-List Election

Seat Allocation Method	Formal Vote Threshold	Winning Min. Percentage	Number of Seat Cap	Total No. of Seats Allocated	Index of Representation	Index of Proportionality	Index of Elasticity
RA 7941	0%	2%	3	24	45.283%	72.842%	0%
Marcos	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Barinaga	2%	1.88679%	10	53	100%	96.327%	0%
Valdez	1.88679%	2.85714%	6	44	83.019%	87.987%	0%
Ocampo	0%	2%	6	53	100%	88.203%	131.75%
Rosales	1.8%	1.8%	6	52	98.113%	93.987%	0%
Cua	1.8%	2.94118%	[illegible]	47	88.679%	85.232%	0%
Recommendation	0.95%	1.88679%	None	53	100%	92.887%	57.381%

To have a pizza

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHAT is the best way for Type I diabetics to regulate their blood sugar levels following a high fat, high carbohydrate meal such as pizza?

The answer lies in a paper, which appeared in the April issue of the journal Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics and authored by Robert Gabbay, associate professor of medicine and director of the diabetes program at the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) Hershey Medical Center, and his colleagues from the Penn State College of Medicine.

This is the premise of the study: to maintain consistent blood sugar levels all day, diabetics must be able to regulate their postprandial glucose (PPG) levels after a meal.

Recent studies have shown that some foods, like pizza, are so complex that the sugar from the meal can affect the PPG levels several hours after the meal was eaten, so maintaining one's desired blood sugar level isn't easy.

One way to regulate a diabetic's blood sugar level is to administer insulin shots when necessary. An alternative is to use an insulin pump, which delivers insulin by means of a catheter placed under the skin. The advantage to using the pump is that it can deliver a bolus, or extra insulin boost, at any time should the blood glucose levels rise.

Finding the best regimen

Gabbay et al. set out to determine the best extended bolus regimen for diabetics who want to eat a complex but typical food, like a "plain cheese pizza from Pizza Hut."

Really, that's what the paper says.

Yes, the participants did get to eat the pizza, with the nutritional values of an average slice being calculated by the researchers, who didn't mention exactly which kind of pizza they had. But looking at the nutritional information provided in Pizza Hut's website, and comparing these against the values Gabbay et al. listed, the study participants might have eaten the regular, pan pizza.

The study involved 24 adults between 30 and 50 years, all of whom had been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at least 11 years prior to the study.

Type 1 diabetes may be more familiarly known as juvenile diabetes because it is usually diagnosed in children or teenagers and is characterized by the body's inability to produce insulin from the pancreas. Without insulin, cells cannot convert the sugar derived from the meals we eat into nutrients that can fuel the cells and keep the body functional.

Each patient also used the same model of insulin pump, which has the ability to test and record their blood sugar levels every five minutes for a full 24 hours. The information is collected by the pump's software and can be downloaded and studied to get a better idea of one's blood glucose levels throughout the day.

To see which method of insulin pump dosing was most effective, researchers asked the patients to have slices of Pizza Hut plain cheese pizza for dinner for three days, washed down with only water. Each patient was asked prior to the test how many slices of pizza they could eat, and the amount was kept constant over the three-day period.

An insulin bolus was calculated for each participant based on each person's carbohydrate to insulin ratio for the meal they were about to have.

3 days

On Day 1, a 100 percent insulin bolus was given to each patient prior to the meal. On Day 2, researchers administered 50 percent of the same insulin bolus prior to the meal, and administered the remainder over the next four hours. On Day 3, they administered 50 percent of the insulin bolus prior to the meal and gave the rest over the next eight hours.

The blood glucose levels for each 24 hour period, starting an hour prior to dinner on Day 1, were recorded on the insulin pumps and the data were collected and analyzed after the experiment.

Based on the data, Gabbay et al. concluded that the method they used on Day 3 tended to maintain consistent insulin levels over the whole day compared with the other two delivery regimens.

They do point out, however, that thus far, this conclusion only works with plain cheese pizza, and not with any other high-fat, high-carbohydrate meal.

More studies are required to find out the best insulin delivery systems for other complex foods, as well as to come up with general guidelines to allow for what Gabbay et al. call "optimal diabetes management."

It looks like it's time to start guessing on what the researchers will pick next to serve as a representative sample of other complex foods.

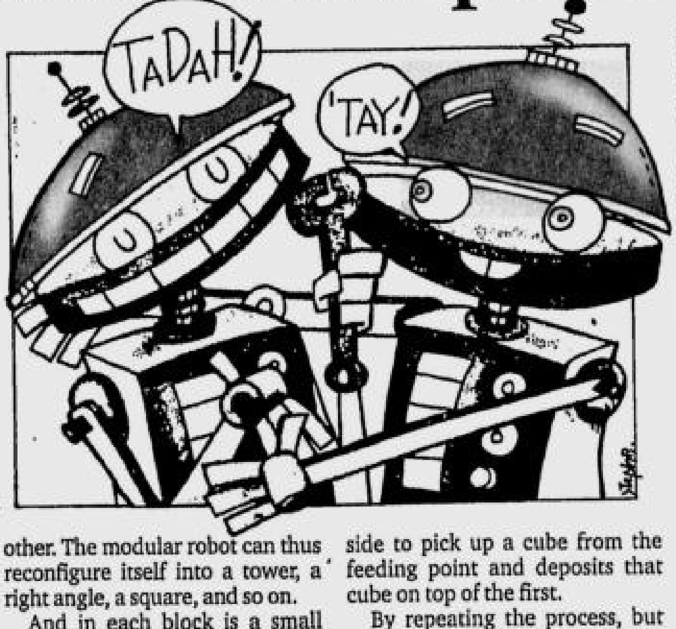
Scientists create self-replicating robot

PARIS—Scientists in the United States say they have created a robot that reproduces itself, marking a small breakthrough in the search for machines that one day could be sent on a scouting mission into deep space and repair themselves if they get damaged or break down.

The machine, created by a team at New York's Cornell University, bears more resemblance to a nursery toy than a Star Wars robot. It is built out of four smart building blocks, cannot walk or talk and still depends on a touch of human help.

But, its inventors say, it provides concrete proof that machines can be programmed to reproduce themselves, thus meeting a key conceptual requirement for building robots able to survive in an environment that is too harsh or remote for humans.

The four blocks are 10-centimeter cubes that have curved slits carved into the sides, enabling them to twist through an arc of 120 degrees.



The sides also have electromagnets that enable them to selectively attach and detach from each other. The modular robot can thus reconfigure itself into a tower, a right angle, a square, and so on.

And in each block is a small computer chip which is programmed with step-by-step instructions about what to do.

The materials for replication are blocks placed (by human hand) at a "feeding" point close by.

To start things off, the robot bends over and sets its top cube on a table. Then it bends to one side to pick up a cube from the feeding point and deposits that cube on top of the first.

By repeating the process, but swiveling and transferring cubes accordingly, one robot made up of a stack of blocks can create another just like itself.

And because one robot cannot reach across another of the same height, the robot being built helps to complete its own construction.

Self-replicating robots are standard fare in science fiction but extraordinarily difficult to achieve in practice, both in the challenges of technology and software.

The definition of self-replication is generally considered to be a machine that can build itself, and that this copy can then build another copy and so on.

Reproduction is a prerequisite in the biological world, but it also comes with the ability to adapt, thanks to genetic changes in succeeding generations.

Lead researcher Hod Lipson said the robot, for all its limitations, was "proof of concept" that mechanical self-reproduction is possible and not confined to living organisms.

He and others have also been working on the evolutionary side of self-replication, fitting out a small lab robots with a computer and plastic-spraying inkjet printer that can design and make parts in order to meet evolutionary challenges.

Self-replication and repair could also be used by robots that are sent into hostile environments, such as a war zone or a damaged nuclear reactor, where a human could not survive. *AFP*

Sweat is good

By Art Villasanta
Contributor

IT MIGHT be a cultural thing having to do with the Filipino's deep-seated desire to look his best no matter what. Or it might have something to do with aberrations in the Filipino psyche, like our glorification of reality shows where contestants dip for prizes in disgusting pigswill.

But sweating has always gotten a bad rap in this country. It's as if sweating were a gruesome bodily function, like vomiting.

Many Filipinos become panicky when sweat shows through their clothes. There are those who chide others who sweat a lot, claiming that sweat is ugly and should be wiped off post haste.

But sweat is good. Sweat is cool. And so is sweating. If you didn't sweat, you'd be dead within an hour from heat stroke.

If you didn't sweat, your skin would fry, literally, as its temperature shoots past 38 degrees Celsius. Then your heart rate goes haywire. What happens next depends on the presence of mind of the people you're with. If they know first aid for heat stroke, you have a chance. If not...

I liter per hour

You can prevent this worst-case scenario by doing the smart thing: sweat. And you can only sweat sufficiently if you drink lots of water—water, not soft drinks, coffee, tea or fruit juice.

On a typically cool day, the average person loses one liter of water per hour as sweat. We're always sweating (even in air-conditioned rooms) but are so busy we don't notice it. Sweating or perspiring is the body's way of releasing excess metabolic heat.

During summer, that water loss jumps to two or three liters per hour! That's mind-boggling and potentially life-threatening.

You're looking for trouble if you stay out under the sun for hours without first drinking a lot of water and regularly replenishing water lost as sweat. The danger from heat stroke increases in a very humid country like ours since humidity (or the amount of water vapor in the air) keeps sweat from evaporating. This hinders the sweat glands from producing enough sweat to cool you down so your body temperature doesn't hit the danger zone of 41 degrees Celsius.

Most of us don't realize that we can lose so much water so quickly under a blazing summer sun. The dangerous thing is that by the time we feel thirsty, we're already dehydrated.

Dehydration symptoms

Dehydration happens without warning. You start licking your dry lips. Your skin feels on fire. You feel dizzy. Confusion sets in.

If you still have some presence of mind, you should quickly find a shade and slowly drink water. Keep drinking until you feel your senses returning. Your body temperature has to drop to 37 degrees Celsius or lower for you to be safe.

You should feel safer when you begin sweating profusely. Try not to wipe off the sweat at once, let it evaporate instead.

First aid

It would be best if you knew first aid for heat stroke. The only solution for heat stroke is to cool the victim down. You can do this by getting him to drink water if he's conscious; soaking his entire body in cool water; sponging cool water onto his body; and applying ice packs to his head, neck, armpits and groin.

If not treated, heat stroke can kill in less than an hour.

I'm not saying that you should not wipe off excessive sweat. I also don't encourage you to cool down inside an air-conditioned room if you're sweating. (That will get you sick.)

Do everything in moderation. If it's hot and you're outdoors, let your body sweat so it cools you down. If you don't sweat, drink water. If you're bathed in sweat, better dry out outdoors. And drink lots of water.

So sweat, be cool, and be safe.

Rescuing the distressed heart

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(First of 2 parts)

MEDICAL FILES

BASED on recent surveys, there is no indication that we're succeeding in controlling the risk factors that lead to heart diseases. Many people at high risk of developing heart attacks and strokes are not even aware that they're walking time bombs.

A good example is Ernesto P., a 54-year-old certified workaholic. Working every minute, and on anything, was second nature to Ernesto until he started having chest pains characterized by a feeling of tightness radiating to the left arm and sometimes to the neck.

"It's like something heavy was placed on my chest," he described his symptom.

The chest heaviness would be triggered by work or exercise prompting him to stop whatever he was doing. Within a few minutes, the pain would subside only to recur sometime later, especially when he was doing something strenuous.

At work, he was known as the executive who would take the stairs going up to his corner office on the 6th floor. But since he started having chest pains, he needed to stop halfway to wait for the chest heaviness to subside.

Initially, he thought his symptom was due to his asthma, recurring after several years of being free from any asthmatic attack. But each time he used his anti-asthma inhalers, the chest heaviness would get worse instead of being relieved. The chest pains started to interfere with his daily activities so Ernesto decided to consult their company physician, who immediately referred him to a heart specialist.

Many problems

Ernesto underwent thorough evaluation and he was startled that he had so many problems he never realized he had. His doctor identified these problems as risk factors, which are the elements promoting narrowing of the arteries and clotting of the blood with impairment of the blood flow as the end result.

His blood pressure was noted to be already high, ranging from 140/90 to 150/100 mmHg.

Although he thought he was just pleasantly plump, he was diagnosed obese as determined by his body mass index.

Blood tests showed normal fasting blood sugar, which his doctor explained was not an assurance that he didn't have diabetes. True enough, when his blood sugar level was determined two hours after eating—called a two-hour post-prandial blood sugar, the result was markedly elevated indicating he had abnormal sugar metabolism.

"You have abnormal glucose tolerance, which practically has the same clinical significance as being diabetic," his doctor warned.

Cholesterol

Ernesto's total blood cholesterol level was within normal range, but when his doctor checked his complete cholesterol profile, it showed a high value for low-density lipoprotein or bad cholesterol, which promotes narrowing of the arteries; and high blood triglycerides, which is another form of fat.

An electrocardiogram at rest followed by exercise (treadmill test) indicated that he had an insufficiency of oxygen and nutrients in the heart called myocardial ischemia. This was noted with a strenuous level of activity, which can be approximated with the treadmill test. His two-dimensional echocardiogram showed thickness or hypertrophy of the heart muscles but with still normal beating of the heart.

Ernestos's heart problem is known as coronary artery disease.

His doctor explained his condition:

"You have all the ingredients or risk factors that will block the highways or major arteries of your circulation, and the narrow alleys or microcirculation leading to your heart. Because of this circulatory traffic, less nutrients are able to reach every cell of your heart. The symptom of chest pain—called angina pectoris—is actually a call for help of the starving myocardium or heart muscle cells. It is a distress signal from your heart, and we have to respond promptly to this SOS call to prevent a myocardial infarction or heart attack."

Ernesto felt like the world caving in on him. He was at the peak of his career. He almost had anything one could dream of, but he realized everything would become meaningless unless his heart problem was promptly treated.

(This article was written in collaboration with Prof. Ramon Abarquez, and Doctors Esperanza Cabral, Nelson Abelardo and Loewe Go.)

3.4M people die of water-related diseases yearly

SOME 3.4 million people, mostly children, die from water-related diseases every year. About 2.4 billion people, over a third of the world's population, lack access to adequate sanitation, and roughly 1.1 billion people lack access to improved water sources.

This was underscored last week by Dr. Pag-asa D. Gaspillo, director of De la Salle University engineering graduate studies, citing a report of the World Health Organization (WHO), during a presentation of a research paper before the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). On the same occasion, she was awarded by NAST with the Hugh Greenwood Environmental Science Award for her significant contributions to water and wastewater management.

Despite significant efforts to address the world's water challenges, more citizens, organizations and corporations must participate in coming up with solutions to adequately address the crisis, Gaspillo pointed out.

Contributions

In the Philippines, access to clean and adequate water remains a problem in urban and coastal areas, Gaspillo, immediate past president of the Water Environment Association of the Philippines (WEAP), has developed the process and technology that would preserve the quality of the country's water resources and prevent its depletion for coming generations. She has also designed and, using local materials, fabricated a water treatment facility for household use.

"Her contributions on water potability and purification of wastewater are really prime and essential to the life and health of the people," stated the NAST citation during the awarding ceremonies. Gaspillo received a plaque from the NAST and US$1,0000 solicited by NAST president Perla D. Santos from Dr. Hugh Greenwood, founder of the Children's Research Fund. The award, launched in 2001, is given annually in celebration of Earth Day.

Quoting from the Philippine Environment Monitor 2003, she said 36 percent of the country's river systems are classified as sources of public water supply; 58 percent of the groundwater (20,200 MCM per year extraction potential) intended for drinking water supplies are contaminated with total caliform and would need treatment; and about 31 percent of illnesses for a five-year period (1996-2000) were caused by water-borne sources.

Main sources

Three main sources of water pollution are domestic (48 percent), agricultural (37 percent) and industrial (15 percent). They can be classified as either point source of pollution, which come from a single identifiable source such as factory or discharge from a sewage treatment plant, or non-point source, which is attributable to diverse sources. Solid waste, which is disposed in open dumpsites or directly into water-bodies, is a major nonpoint source of pollution.

The wastewater components of major concern, Gaspillo said, are those which will deplete the oxygen resources of the stream or lake to which they are discharged, those which may stimulate undesirable growths of plants or organisms such as algae, or those which will have undesirable esthetics effects or adverse health effects on downstream water uses.

Water-related

Untreated wastewater makes water unfit for drinking and affects health by spreading bacteria and viruses that cause diseases, including gastroenteritis, diarrhea, typhoid, cholera, dysentery, hepatitis and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The incidence of water-related health outbreaks is going up.

Improved sanitation and water pollution control, reflected by the willingness to pay and connection to sewerage system, is sorely lacking. Less than 8 percent of the households in Metro Manila have sewer connections, and the percentage is lower still in the rest of the country.

But, Gaspillo said, there has been little control or regulation of these private facilities and many are badly designed and constructed. Poorly maintained septic tanks discharge inadequately treated sewage and effluent directly into storm water drains and waterways.

This time naturopath goes for whole coconut

AUTHOR Bruce Fife, an American nutritionist and naturopathic physician, returns to the source of what he considers the healthiest oil to bring the message that "Coconut Cures" in a symposium for medical practitioners and health advocates today from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Traders Hotel on Roxas Boulevard.

Best known for his book, originally published by Piccadilly as "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil" and retitled as "Coconut Oil Miracles" under a new publisher (Avery), Fife has written a sequel recently titled "Coconut Cures."

The American coconut advocate put together anecdotal [illegible] and dramatic testimonials from all over the world attributed to coconuts—part of which he gathered during his first lecture visit to the country last year—into his latest book with a foreword written by Filipino cardiologist Dr. Conrado Dayrit.

Virtual medicine chest

The book let us know that the entire coconut is a virtual medicine chest. He describes coconut meat, milk and water as having medicinal as well as nutritional value, a truly functional food.

For instance, the book details why coconut water is used not just as a delicious beverage loaded with vitamins and minerals but as an IV (intravenous) solution for sick patients. Fife notes that some patients have been able to reduce or eliminate dialysis treatments simply by drinking coconut water.

He describes coconut meat as a virtual powerhouse of health that can help balance blood sugar and control diabetes, protect against cancer, ease the pain and discomfort of colitis and irritable bowel syndrome, aid in weight loss, expel intestinal parasites, improve digestive function, help eliminate hemorrhoids and varicose veins, the list goes on and on.

New info

The book contains new information about the wonders of coconut oil not found in his earlier books, supported by references to published studies.

Coconut Cures tells a woman with breast cancer so severe it spread to her skull that doctors gave up on her and sent her home to die. She relates how she discovered the healing power of coconut and cured herself.

Then there is the story of a medical doctor who after years of failure using traditional treatments cured himself of Crohn's disease using the coconut detox program he formulated.

Bruce Fife is in the country to bring his new revelations into a series of lectures and book signing sponsored by the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines (VCO Philippines) and the Philippine Coconut Authority under the Department of Agriculture. For more information visit the website www.vcophils.org

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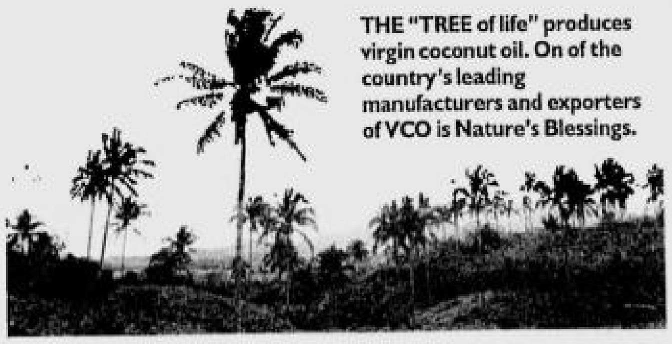

THE "TREE of life" produces virgin coconut oil. On of the country's leading manufacturers and exporters of VCO is Nature's Blessings.

Nature's Blessings granted US organic certification

IN WHAT can be considered a significant breakthrough for the local virgin coconut oil industry, Nature's Blessings, a leading manufacturer and exporter to the United States, has been granted organic certification by Global Organic Alliance (GOA), a duly licensed inspector and certifier of the US Department of Agriculture.

"We consider this certification as a watershed event because it proves that local manufacturers can adhere to the very stringent standards and regulations being adopted by the USDA," said Julie Figueroa, president and CEO of Nature's Blessings.

Inspection trips

The GOA representative visited the coconut plantation and virgin coconut oil processing facilities of Nature's Blessings in San Narciso, Quezon, on two occasions to inspect the soil in the plantation area, sources of water used in the processing plant, type of cleaning agents used in the plant site. This makes sure no intercropped mango orchards and ricelands using fertilizers, pesticides and hormone-laden fruit inducers within or adjacent to the plantation area, and other environmental factors and local practices.

As a result of the very exacting inspection trips, Figueroa's companies received two certifications—Figueroa Farms as a fully organic coconut plantation (Certification 2131) and Nature's Blessings as a producer of organic cold-pressed virgin coconut oil (Certification 2132).

Significant victory

"Being able to prove that a local virgin coconut oil manufacturer can keep up with USDA organic certification standards represents only an initial but significant victory for the local industry. Another thing that we are proud of is the low level of moisture of our oil giving it a longer shelf life," added Figueroa.

For more information on Nature's Blessings virgin coconut oil, call 631-9443, 635-5030 and 821-4927 or log on to www.naturesblessings.com.ph.

Hapee Gumtect now available

ANOTHER Lamoiyan milestone is the manufacture and distribution of Gumtect, a "specialized toothpaste that addresses the needs of the gums as well as the teeth."

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OFFICE SPACE

GlobeTel Plaza 44.74sm P1.4M CP0917-5258034

MEMORIAL LOT

COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS VISAYAS AVE 0916-6538631

COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS In Visayas Avenue, Quezon City Carol 0917-8491952, 723-2975 ofc. hrs

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

LA240m² 2-stry Hse 2TB 3BR Proj 8 QC P35T 09162399045

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BUS/RES 4BR/2TB P24T 8133927/28

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkl 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

MANILA

P4T 9178863211/2547788

MANDALUYONG

Semi Condo 13T 4T 6T Drmland Subd Mand T#5338536

QUEZON CITY

2BR Penths Furn 30T Front Ateneo 641-1049 • 641-0511

2sty 2CG 3BR 3TB Moldern secured nr ABS-CBN TMorato 72G Sct Rallos 09223281762

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277616

NICE CONDO: 3BR, 3TB Maids Room w/TB, Secured 913-7267 • 913-7270 -Roy

SAN JUAN

Sn Juan P15T/mo. 715-3544

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

EDSA CALOOCAN 3FLRS COML W/BODEGA 3612683 3610652

MAKATI

2BR 1TB TBL GRGE STRNG H20 8244115 09153202799

PASIG

SCREEND QUIET 2STRY 2BR T6354244 PREFRZ WO KIDS 4 SN CLEMENTE KAPITOLYO

QUEZON CITY

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876041

NEW 3BR,6Units P15T/mo. 2mos.deposit ;1mo. advance #11 Ermin Garcia bet E. Rodriguez & Kamuning 426-4252

SAN JUAN

★A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 8461603

FOR LEASE

FOR RENT LE TRIOMPHE 705 F. Furnish w/ Parking Call Myrna 8931043

Scout Area 37T(neg) 4BR 5TB 2PK nr ABS-CBN 457-8041

QUEZON CITY

LOT COML/RESDL USE Mallgsya Subd. NovaQC 789sqm@P50 /sqm 2 mos advnce, 2 mos dpcl. Renewable yearly. Email: graceg_888@yahoo.com

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-323-3075, 323-3084) • Fax No. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR GRAINS HAULING/TRUCKING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of hauling/trucking for the Calendar Year 2005 in the transfer of stocks from source to its identified NFA Warehouses with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

PROVINCE	ROUTE		DISTANCE (Km)	ESTD. NO. OF BAGS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
	Source	Destination			
N. Leyte	Tacloban Port	Port Area Whse	0.50	30,000	P 120,000.00
		Alangalang Whse	28.0	100,000	567,000.00
		Naval, Biliran	123.0	2,000	39,360.00
		Guiuan, E. Samar	149.0	3,200	76,288.00
		Borongan, E.S.	188.4	2,000	58,480.00
		Oras, E. Samar	177.5	2,000	55,080.00
		Catbalogan	106.5	2,000	33,920.00
		Maasin	185.5	2,000	57,560.00
		Ormoc	109.0	2,000	34,880.00
	Ormoc Port	Ormoc Whse	1.2	15,000	60,000.00
		Baybay Whse	47.0	1,200	11,136.00
S. Leyte	Maasin Port	Maasin Whse	2.5	60,000	240,000.00
	Maasin Whse	Baybay Whse	78.5	1,200	18,264.00
		Hilongos Whse	44.0	1,200	10,428.00
	Baybay Port	Baybay Whse	2.0	25,000	100,000.00
		Hilongos Whse	41.5	1,200	9,840.00
Biliran	Naval Port	Naval Whse	2.0	40,000	160,000.00
W. Samar	Catbalogan Port	Catbalogan Whse	1.0	80,000	320,000.00
	Calbayog Port	Calbayog Whse	1.0	25,000	100,000.00
	Calbayog Whse	Bobon Whse, N.S.	107.5	2,000	34,400.00
	Catbalogan	Oras, E. Samar	121.0	10,000	193,600.00
		Borongan Whse	131.9	2,000	42,200.00
		Calbayog Whse	69.0	2,000	26,760.00
N. Samar	Sn Jose Port	Bobon Whse	7.5	30,000	120,000.00
		Rawis Whse	63.0	30,000	386,600.00
		Catubig Whse	84.0	10,000	162,900.00
		Victoria Leased	36.0	5,000	34,900.00
		TOTAL		486,000	P3,053,576.00

The Application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00).

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	May 10-19, 2005 (8:00 am-5:00 pm)
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	May 23, 2005 (5:00 pm)
Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Notice of Eligibility	May 30, 2005 (8:00 am-5:00 pm)
Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	June 1, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission and Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Rm)	June 13, 2005 (9:30 am)

Interested bidder should at least meet the minimum requirement of TH trucks as required per province as follows:

N. LEYTE – 8 units: 10-wheeler trucks
S. LEYTE – 6 units: 6-wheeler trucks
BILIRAN – 6 units: 6-wheeler trucks
W. SAMAR – 5 units: 3-units 10-wheeler trucks and 2 units 6-wheeler trucks
N. SAMAR – 5 units: 2-units 10-wheeler trucks and 3 units 6-wheeler trucks

In case bidder does not meet the required minimum number of units of TH trucks, NFA may accept back-to-back Letter of Agreement with other TH owners/operators to be listed under the bidder's fleet.

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective bidder owner (for sole Proprietorship) and/or Resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formalities or defects found therein, or to accept such bids or award to any Contractor whose Bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Asst. Regional Manager/Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI–May 8 & 14, 2005)

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites local ship building/ship repair companies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

1. Dry-docking and other related repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71) with an approved budget of **P7,760,337.65** chargeable against **Maintenance and Repair Program under SAA #0104M dtd 13 January 2005,** and
2. Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341) with an approved budget of **P2,240,895.70** chargeable against **Maintenance and Repair Program under SAA #0106M dtd 13 January 2005.**

Contractors' whose shipyard facility is located outside Cebu province shall be responsible to tow the vessels as a dead ships from Captain Veloso Pier, Naval Operating Base Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City; Cebu, Philippines to their facility. Contractor shall also furnish total maritime insurance coverage specifically for, but not limited to, all liabilities of hull and machinery protection and indemnities during the conduct of towing operation. Said insurance shall be carried by a recognized and reputable underwriters and/or insurers such as AFPGIC.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **May 7, 2005 until June 7, 2005** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the Office of the AFP BAC, G/F Bulwagang Syquio, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Pesos only (Php 7,760.00)** for the drydocking and other related repairs of **AS71**, and **Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Pesos only (Php 2,420.00)** for the drydocking and other related repairs of **DF341.** The form of payment will be in cashor cashier's check in favor of the **Armed Forces of the Philippines.**

Representatives are required to present a **Special Power of Attorney,** issued by the prospective bidder before issuance of the Bid documents and all other transactions thereto.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on the following dates:

Nomenclature	*Date / Place*
Dry-docking and other Related Repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71)	**01 June 2005** at **9:00 A.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**
Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341)	**01 June 2005** at **11:00 A.M.** at the **HN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**

Bidders who have inquiries must communicate in writing to the AFP Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat three (3) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission and opening of bid documents are as follows:

Nomenclature	*Date/Place*
Dry-docking and other Related Repairs of BRP MANGYAN (AS71)	**13 June 2005** at **9:00 A.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**
Dry-docking and repair of DIESEL FASTCRAFT 341 (DF341)	**13 June 2005** at **2:00 P.M.** at the **HPN Conference Room, HPN, Roxas Blvd., Manila**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

JORGE G NECESITO
RADM AFP
Chairman

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

700/450/250m² 09178863211

ROOM & BOARD

ATENEO CONDO 0922-8871107

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

BEDSPACE

Professionals M/F Cuenca Pasay 8315026 / 5500254

BUSINESS RENTA

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m² (ideal for SPA, GYM) 9289541 / 7361925

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BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

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2001 Strada, fully loaded, TV, 12cd changer, camper shell w /AC and Japanese Seat, bull bar, ladder, registered /comprehensive insurance. Call 0920-9003033 •09189422422

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Clark based knit export manufacturer needs the following:

SENIOR MERCHANDISER

- Female, below 40 years old
- 10 years related work experience for US brand name, computer literate, fluent English speaking and written
- willing to work under pressure and overtime

CUTTING SUPERVISOR

- Male, below 40 years old
- 10 years related work experience for knitted fabric
- knowledge for consumption and utilization of fabric, ratio making and spreading sheet preparation
- work experience abroad, preferred

SEWING SUPERVISOR

- Female, below 40 years old
- 7-10 years related work experience
- work experience abroad, preferred
- knowledge in operation b/d, quota, line balancing and target output

FINISHING/ PACKING SUPERVISOR

- Below 40 years old
- 7 years related work experience
- work experience in USA brand garment, preferred
- knowledge in revising, pressing, packing, loading and packing list preparation

SAMPLE ROOM SUPERVISOR

- Female, below 40 years old
- at least 7 years related work experience
- can handle the work flow and planning for schedule, knowledge for handling high fashion style is preferred

Please mail your resumé with picture and salary to:

Room LG56, Cityland Dela Rosa Condominium
Dela Rosa Street, Pio Del Pilar, Makati City

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE 8 ANNAPOLIS GREENHILLS 0922-4199188

PETS

ASZOO
DOG TRAINING 455-6212

BEAGLE PUPS 09106761055

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champin 09275758575 / 0917-8994800

PCCI
21st PCI & 340th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS
DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANK CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
MAY 14 & 15, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
PROF. ZEEV TRAININ
(Israel)
MS. MIEKO NOMURA
(Jpn)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
Saturday May 14, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Sporting Grp. & Terrier Grp.
12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group / Toy Group
Sunday MAY 15, 2005
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp.
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC.
CAEG Bldg. #7611 Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #802 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on MAY 21, 2005 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to DECEMBER 2004. - V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer.
(PDI - MAY 14, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LUIS P. CHUALONG has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 139, Page No. 28, Book No. 150, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Rafael P. Mateo of Tanay, Rizal.
(April 30, May 7 & 14, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Consign 09167940002

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Masseur 18-25yo 09204540607

FEMALE

10 English Teachers
Part/Full Time Pref Call Ctr & Korean Language Ctr4330961

WANTED MANICURIST KNOW FOOT SPA T#7793259 IRENE

SALES CLERK, Single 18-25yrs old coll level pleasing personality. Apply in person w /biodata at #21 Gilmore Ave New Mla QC nr St Pauls College QC between 10:00AM-5:00PM T-7227063

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTING CLERK
At least 22-28 yrs old BS Commerce, BA Grad. maj. in Acctg w/ or w/o exp. Apply at Maximum Security & Srvc. Corp. 2/F Suite 202, Unified Bldg. 6 Denver St, Cubao, QC Lk for Mrs. Marina C. Panta

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

OPTO 889-0106 11-9PM

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DENTIST
DENTAL ASSISTANT

- FEMALE (Preferably Single)
- 22 TO 30 YEARS OLD
- TEAM PLAYER
- AGGRESSIVE
- HARDWORKING

Pls. call 892-9058 / 892-4427 for appt. or submit resume to 1202 Medical Plaza, Cor. Amorsolo & dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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WANTED
FIVE (5) ACCOUNTING STAFF

Urgently needed for the expansion and on-going reorganization of a CHED recognized School in Metro Manila

Qualifications:
- BS Accountancy Graduate (or BSC Accounting)
- Female, Single
- Hardworking

Send application letter with transcript of records and brief Bio-data to:

THE FINANCE OFFICER (Ms. Ditas)
869 E. Quintos St., Sampaloc, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Repair/Renovation of Library Hub
Located at Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

1. The Department of Education (DepED), through the Physical Facilities and Schools Engineering Division (PFSED) intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND 00/100 ONLY (Php2,439,800.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/Renovation of Library Hub Project Office, at Araneta corner Hernaez St., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The DepED now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the project. Bidders should possess a valid Philippines Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of contract, have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Application for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Bidding Documents shall be issued to prospective bidders who passed the eligibility check only. Completion of work required is sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.
3. Interested contractors shall submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) together with their application for eligibility to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), through the BAC Secretariat, Rm. 508, 5th Flr. Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **May 16, 2005, 6:00 p.m.** Eligibility requirements shall be issued by DepED upon receipt of the LOI and application for eligibility.

   Prospective Bidders shall submit their eligibility documents to the above address not later than **May 17, 2005, 6:00 p.m.**

   DepED shall notify prospective bidders of the result of eligibility check.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders starting on **May 23 to 30, 2005** during office hours upon presentation of Notice of Eligibility to the address mentioned above, and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or **www.procurementservice.org.** The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. Nos. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.
5. The DepED will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible Bidders on **June 7, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at DepED Division Office of Bacolod, Rosario San Juan Street, Bacolod City.
6. Submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m.**, at the address specified in paragraph no. 5.
7. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least 75% interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check shall be opened.
8. The DepED reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 7 & 14, 2005)

SBMA DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
SBMA Bldg. 709, Cor. Burgos & Quezon Sts.,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Phils. 2222
Telephone (6347) 252-4613/4219 / 4474 Fax: (6347) 252-4339

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED DISPOSABLE / SURPLUS / UNSERVICEABLE AND OTHER SCRAP MATERIALS "AS IS, WHERE IS"

ITEM	DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	SCHEDULE OF BIDDING
LOT 1	Assorted Scrap Materials & Electrical Wire (asstd sizes) located at B-709 & 738 PPMD Yard, SBFZ	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 2	Assorted Used Office/Housing Furnitures and Appliances located at B-709 PPMD Yard, SBFZ	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 3	Assorted Used IT Equipments, Keyboards, AVRs, Printers, CPU Housing and Other Related Accessories located at B-896 former Wel Phil Warehouse, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 4	Electrical Substation & Pole Mounted Transformers and Other Related Accessories located at B-709 PPMD Yard, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 5	Used Oil, Batteries & Tires located at B-709 PPMD Yard and at Transportation Dept. Open Yard	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 6	Used Plumbing Fixtures and Accessories located at B-709 and B-738 PPMD Yard.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 7	Unserviceable Pollution, Spill Control (Donut Type) located at Microvan Yard, SBFZ	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 8	Unserviceable Portal Crane located at Alava & Riviera Pier, SRF Compound, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 9	Assorted Unserviceable Vehicles located at Microvan Yard, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 10	Fire-Damaged Bldg. Structure for Demolition & Disposal (CA32, former KACE, Phils.) located at Dewey Avenue, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 11	Used Tricycle with Trailer from Full Power Corporation located at Bldg. 738 Warehouse Dewey Ave., SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 12	Used Sewing Machines and Other Assorted Related Items from American Sports Grp. (ASG) located at Bldg. 56 Naval Station, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 13	Used Sewing Machines and Other Assorted Related Items from JAYCEE Subic Corp. located at Bldg. 738, PPMD Warehouse, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 14	Used Sewing Machines and Other Assorted Related Items from SamDon Int'l. Co. (SDIC) located at Bldg. 738, SBFZ.	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM
Lot 15	Used Injection Machine with Cooling Tower from Wel Phil Inc. located at Bldg. 896, SBFZ	June 15, 2005 2:00 PM

I. Buyers are requested to submit the following Pre-qualification documents at the Procurement and Property Management Department (PPMD), Bldg. 255, SBMA, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

SEC Registration (Partnership/Corporation); DTI Certificate of Registration (if not corporation); Valid Mayor's Permit; VAT Registration; Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years; Company Profile; List of Clients; Latest Income Tax Return (ITR, 2004); Certification of Cash Deposit of a reputable bank.

II. Deadline of submission of the Pre-Qualification Papers is on *May 27, 2005, Friday (5:00 PM)*, No extension.

III. Pre-Bid Conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on *June 8, 2005, Wed (2:00 PM)*

IV. Bid Bond is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in favor of SBMA.

V. Inspection will strictly be by group on the following schedules:

LOT	DATE	TIME
1 to 15	June 2 & 3, 2005	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

VI. For other information, inquiries and/ or request for inspection, call Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4613 / 4219.

VII. SBMA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein or to reject/accept such bids as may be deemed most advantageous to SBMA.

Done this 5th day of May 2005.

(Sgd.) RAMON M. DE LEON
DA for Administration
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI – May 14 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Sorsogon State College
Sorsogon, Sorsogon
Tel. (056) 211-18-69 Fax (056) 211-18-45

THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE (SSC) GOVERNING BOARD

announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE (SSC) PRESIDENT

Minimum Qualifications:
1. Filipino Citizen
2. A holder of an EARNED doctoral degree in any related academic field;
3. Must have five (5) years managerial and administrative experience;
4. Recognized leadership in his/her profession;
5. Morally upright and never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude;
6. Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at the time of the application.

In addition to the above qualifications, applicants must submit the following documentary requirements in six (6) copies:

a. Letter of intention/application
b. Detailed curricular vitaé and certified supporting documents;
c. Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrust for the College;
d. Clearances from the Police, NBI, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan and Civil Service Commission;
e. Full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed;
f. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination to be accomplished by any government physician on an accredited health institution;
g. Health certificate from any government physician.

Interested applicants are requested to submit the requirements not later than June 23, 2005 to:

DR. CRISTINA DAMASCO PADOLINA
Commissioner, CHED and
Chairperson, Sorsogon State College Governing Board
5/F DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 638-4870

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and submit sealed bids for the project:

San Mateo Landfill Gas Extraction Project
HE05-251R1

The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 350,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

The Contractor shall drill four (4) vertical wells for landfill gas production testing at the San Mateo landfill in Brgy. Pintong Bukawe, San Mateo Rizal. Each well shall be 6 meters in depth and 10 inches in diameter and shall be cased with perforated HDPE pipe which is 4 inches in diameter. The wells will be used for gas production and leachate level monitoring.

Eligibility documents shall be available for issuance from the PNOC EC Operation Support Group (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mejias or George Alejandro) starting May 14, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Two Hundred (PhP200.00). Only contractors who can submit all the eligibility requirements on or before May 23, 2005 are eligible to purchase the bid documents.

Bid documents shall be available to eligible bidders starting May 24, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand (PhP1,000.00).

The bidding shall utilize a two (2) sealed envelope system. The first envelope shall contain the Technical Bid and the second envelope shall contain the Financial Bid. The Technical & Financial Bid shall be submitted in two (2) sets each at the above address on or before 3:00 P.M. of June 9, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 26, 2005, 2:00 P.M. at the above address.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) Ernesto S. San Jose
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--May 14, 2005)

TransCo
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon, Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-06B

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: JUNE 14, 2005; 9:00 AM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
B1	1 UNIT	REHABILITATION OF 50 MVA 3 PHASE 115/34.5 KV POWER TRANSFORMER OSAKA BRAND WITH SN 5 BA189101 LOCATED AT DASMARIÑAS SUBSTATION, CAVITE	3SL04	P 13,500,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for the above schedule shall be held on June 01, 2005; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC Whichever is higher, per bidding schedule, starting May 17, 2005. No bid documents shall be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulation used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) R. B. VERGARA
Chairman-BAC

(PDI--May 14, 2005)

BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the National Resources Development Corporation)
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

ITB NO. 010

Bukidnon Forests Incorporated (BFI) invites interested contractors to apply for Eligibility and to re-bid if subsequently found eligible, to bid for various projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	HAVESTING OPERATIONS - YARDING & SKIDDING, LOADING, SEGREGATION AND FILING OF BENGUET PINE LOGS
LOCATION/END USER	BFI HARVESTING OPERATIONS Tigbawan, Incalbog, Can-ayan, Malaybalay City
SOURCE OF FUND	BFI REVENUES
APPROVED BUDGET COST	P5,055,000.00
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Contract of Services - Logging Equipment
SCOPE OF WORK	10,000 cu m. Yarding & Skidding - ABC P1,800,000.00 21,000 cu.m. Loading - ABC P2,100,000.00 21,000 cu.m. Segregation & Filing - ABC P1,155,000.00

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT	OWNED	LEASED	TOTAL
Loader	3	2	5
Wrecker	3	2	5

Issuance of Eligibility & Bid Document ... May 26, 2005
Dropping of Bids .. ..June 08, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids .. ... June 08, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.
BFI Training Center, BFI Cmpd., Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidder/suppliers may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per set. For more information, please inquirer at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Documents, Procedures and Purchase Order shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 providing rules and regulation governing goods and infrastructure projects.

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Research & Support Services Manager
BAC Chairman

(PDI- May 7 & 14, 2005)

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OBITUARIES

"Lord You know what is best for all of us.
Help us to be resigned to Your Will."
– **Gerardine's Prayer**

Our Dearly Beloved

JOHN NELSON LEYRAN MEIM

30 March 1961 – 10 May 2005

Peacefully joined our Lord on 10 May 2005 at the age of 44.

His loving parents, **BGen Eustaquio** (†) and **Leticia**; brothers and sisters, **Fr. Daniel Dennis, SDB, Maria Linda, Gina Liza, Joseph Eric Vernon** (†) and **Paul Niño**; brothers-in-law **PS Supt Leopoldo N. Bataoil** and **Gordon Springer**; sister-in-law **Mary Rose Tanalgo**; nieces **Carmela** and **Angela Meim-Bataoil** and **Christianna Erica Tanalgo-Meim** request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive from San Francisco, USA on Sunday, 15 May 2005 and will lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at the Meim Mausoleum, Plaza of Honor at Manila Memorial Park after a 1 p.m. Mass at St. James the Great Parish Church, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

FERNANDO O. TAN

"Tan Chiong Tee"

Passed away in the grace and goodness of our Lord on 11th of May, 2005 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **Trinidad Chua**; son **Nelson C. Tan (Neltan Trading)** and daughter **Marisan C. Tan (Equitable PCI Bank)**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Chapel 14, La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on **May 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.** at **La Funeraria Paz Crematory, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.**

I have fought the good fight I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

(2 Timothy 4)

In Loving Memory
on the 3rd Death Anniversary of

ARTURO SIDDONS YABUT
"TORO"

1962 - 2002

Masses will be offered today, May 14, 2005, at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City	6:00 AM
Sts. Peter & Paul P. Burgos St., Makati City	6:00 AM
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart San Antonio Village, Makati City	7:00 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Chapel Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 AM 7:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
Manila Memorial Park Yabut Mausoleum, Parañaque City	4:30 PM
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	12:00 Nn
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City	12:15 PM
Nuestra Sra. De Gracia Parish Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Pasay Road, Makati City	6:00 PM
St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish Bel-Air II, Makati City	6:30 PM

The family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers

In Loving Memory

ARTURO R. HERNANDEZ

of Marikina

Died peacefully on June 17, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A Holy Mass for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the Sta. Elena Chapel, C. Cruz St., Sta. Elena, Marikina today, May 14, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

We, the family of Arturo Hernandez, his daughter, **Victoria** and son-in-law, **Eric Bress**; brother and sisters, **Benjamin, Remedios, Angelina, Dolores** and **Resurreccion**; in-laws, nieces and nephews request all his loved ones, other relatives and friends to join us in prayers for him.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." **2 Corinthians 5:8**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD REF. NO. PB-050405-PP0026 / PR NO. ITASD-05-009059

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR HEAD OFFICE**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the item listed below:

Quantity	Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
1 LOT	DESIGN, SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 48 V DC RECTIFIER/CHARGER IN PARALLEL REDUNDANT SYSTEM FOR FIVE (5) LUZON REPEATER STATIONS	ITASD-05-00905	P12,200,000.00

1. Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **May 10, 2005 to June 08, 2005** from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Pesos (P1,220.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 09, 2005** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **May 26, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the corporation.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO G. LABAYANI
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 14 & 20, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, materials and equipment for the hereunder contract:

1. Name of Contract : CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCE
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 5,227,847.00
   Contract Duration : Six (6) months PCAB License: Medium A
2. Name of Contract : REHABILITATION/RENOVATION OF STRUCTURES AND INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES OF MAIN BUILDING
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 4,497,069.00
   Contract Duration : Four (4) months PCAB License : Medium A
3. Name of Contract : REHABILITATION/RENOVATION OF STRUCTURES AND INSTALLATION OF FACILITIES OF ONE (1) UNIT BACHELOR'S COTTAGE AND ONE (1) UNIT GUEST HOUSE
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Bachelor's Cottage –PhP 249,771.00 – Php858,586.00
   Guest Room – Php 858,586.00 Guest House – Php 249,771.00 * AMENDED
   Contract Duration : Three (3) months PCAB License : Small B
4. Name of Contract : CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORPOOL
   Location : Luzon Experiment Station, Floridablanca, Pampanga
   Approved Budget for the Contract : Php 2,413,978.00
   Contract Duration : Three (3) months PCAB License : Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct a post-qualification evaluation of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities during office hours is as follows:

BAC Activities		Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	May 10 - 13, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 17 - 20, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 18 - 27, 2005
4.	Notice of results of Eligibility Check	May 31, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	June 1, 2005
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	June 3, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 15, 2005

The time of the Pre-Bid Conference and the Receipt and Opening of Bids shall be at 9:00 A.M. on the specified dates and the corresponding venue shall be at the SRA Social Hall, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the BAC SECRETARIAT, SRA Annex Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, upon their submission of LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 to the SRA Treasury Division, Quezon City. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

For particulars, please contact – BAC SECRETARIAT
Tel. No. 929-6837

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to Bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the SRA Treasury Division.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

* Amendments/corrections in highlight and with underline

(PDI - May 7 & 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Fortified Noodles and Biscuits

1. The Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) of the **Department of Education (DepED)**, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following package:

Package No.	Goods	Approved Budget per package
1	Fortified Instant Noodles	P4,800,000.00
2	Fortified Biscuits	P7,164,000.00
	Total	P11,964,000.00

   Bids received in excess of the approved budget per package shall be rejected. The total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS ELEVEN MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP11,964,000.00).**
2. The **DepED**, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the Goods to DepED HNC, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **May 16, 2005** until **May 23, 2005** upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, and payment of a non-refundable fee of **Philippine Pesos Four Thousand & 00/100 Only (Php4,000.00)**. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org. The BAC Secretariat could be reached through Tel. No. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.
5. The **DepED, BAC** shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties **on May 24, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **June 6, 2005,** 10:00 a.m. at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.** Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The **DepED, BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 14 & 21, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

2000 Toyota Corolla / WPU-737
2003 Mitsubishi Adventure / XMK-371
1999 Toyota Revo / WGC-552

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño Tel. # 878-54-57

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Hypertension: The silent killer

THE NUMBER of Filipinos with Hypertension or High Blood Pressure is increasing. Data from the Philippine Society of Hypertension show that 2 out of 10 adult Filipinos age 20 years old and above are hypertensive. This translates to about 8 million of the adult population.

Hypertension is considered as one of the top three leading causes of death all over the world. This "silent killer" is known to increase the risk of stroke, heart attack and kidney failure.

Because hypertension presents no identifiable symptoms, many people fall prey to its complications without even being aware that they already have high blood pressure. Less than half of the hypertensive population is aware of their condition, but only half of them are taking medication.

Compliance to treatment is important in hypertension management. High blood pressure is a life-long condition that, if left uncontrolled, could damage the heart, kidney, eyes and brain resulting in more serious complications, and even sudden death.

However, with the increasing cost of healthcare, the average Filipino only takes prescribed drug when symptoms are felt. Poor patient compliance to medication has always been a major barrier which has led to an erratic and inadequate control of blood pressure.

Untreated hypertension increases slowly over the years. It is important, therefore, for anyone with risk factors to have their blood pressure checked regularly and to make appropriate lifestyle changes. Such recommendations are urged for individuals who have overall high-normal blood pressure, mild or above systolic with normal diastolic pressure, or family histories of hypertension, or who are overweight or over the age 40.

People should call a physician immediately if these symptoms occur: drowsiness, confusion, headache, nausea and loss of vision. Perhaps the best initial approach for most patients with hypertension is to work with their physicians to set blood pressure goals based on their individual risk factors and to plan the optimal life-style and medication programs. Most people should strive for 140/90 mm Hg or below. People with diabetics should aim lower (130/85 mm Hg) to help reduce the chance for kidney complications.

Healthy lifestyle changes are imperative for anyone, and are critical for people with even normal blood pressure and above. In appropriate patients, aggressive drug treatment of long-term high blood pressure can significantly reduce the incidence of mental decline and death from heart disease and other serious physical effects of hypertension. In people with diabetes, controlling both blood pressure and blood glucose levels prevents serious complications of that disease. Anti-hypertensive agents may even prevent mental decline, including in people genetically susceptible to Alzheimer's disease. Nevertheless, only slightly over half of patients with hypertension are treated at all and only a quarter has adequately controlled pressure.

This information is brought to you by Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Natrapharm Group. Natrapharm supports PSH in its advocacy against hypertension.

Dole
Life is Sweet
Dole

DOLE SINGLES 'WHITE LATINO NIGHTS PARTY'

Dole the country's premiere brand of canned fruit juices and fruits recently concluded the Dole Singles 'White Latino Nights Party' last March 11 at the Eastwood City Central Plaza in Libis. Guests as well as the regular Eastwood crowd were treated to an amazing performance by Cruzin' to the beat of mesmerizing Latin Music. Celebrity bartender G Tongi used Dole Singles products to create her luscious fruit based concoctions. Drinks were served using a variety of fruit combinations and jazzy colors to show how versatile Dole Singles can be. A bartending demonstration was also conducted during the evening by G Tongi under the helm of her school, the Asian Bartending Academy. The event highlighted the launching of the Dole Singles, Life is Sweet campaign for 2005 focused on promoting Dole's healthy, fun and vibrant beverages which complements the healthy lifestyle of today's youth. Throughout the year, Dole will be providing consumers the Singles juices which suits your every mood.

16th Anniversary
Induction of Offi
and Direct

YAP INDUCTS NEW OFFICERS OF MEAT PROCESSORS GROUP

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap (leftmost) inducts the 2005 officers and directors of the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc (Pampi) at a fellowship night held March 18 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Inducted were Felix Tiukinhoy of Virginia Foods Inc, who was reelected for the sixth time as president; Jerome Ong of CDO-Foodsphere Inc, vice president; Joyce Alcoreza of Dealco Inc, secretary; Cezar Cruz of Monterey Foods Corp, treasurer, and Julie Manalo of Nenita Quality Foods Corp, auditor. Inducted board directors are Rey Lapid of R. Lapid's Chicharon, Ricky Hizon of Pampanga's Best, Butch Prieto of RFM Inc, and Allan Castro of The Purefoods-Hormel Corp. Not in photo is public relations officer Vivian Lim of GenOSI Inc.

WILCON HOLDS 2ND DRAW

Photo shows (from left): Arnold Ologuin, DIY manager; Rosemarie B. Ong, EVP for marketing; Clarita Escalis, DTI representative; Jennifer Francisco, sales supervisor of Bestank Mfg Corp; and Denvick Leonardo, assistant depot manager.

PDI PHOTO/BETOY JOHNSON

BIFLEX LAUNCHING

FMC Corp, Le Firenze Marketing and Management Corp and Leads Environmental Science hosted the launching of Biflex 10TC last March 18 at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Guests from government and the business sector were introduced to the advantages of Biflex 10TC over other termiticides. Shown are Ferdinand De Gala, COO of Leads Environmental Science; Dr. Gil Magsino of UPLB; Ian Hendry of FMC; and Didi Gonzales, chair of Le Firenze Marketing, during the launch.

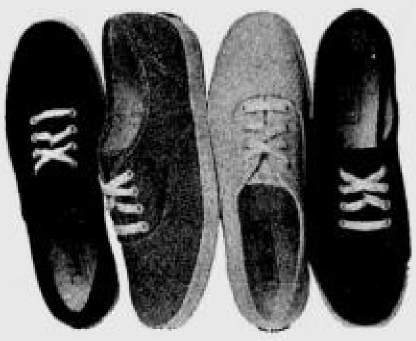
WRIGLEY'S PRINT AD WINS BRONZE IN ADFEST

Wrigley Phils received recognition at the Asian Advertising Festival in Pattaya, Thailand. Their print ad for Orbit For Kids was given a bronze award by a panel of judges who head leading advertising agencies in the region. Entitled 'Monkey Bars', the print ad was one of 3,000 entries from all over Asia and is the only winner in the confectionery category. It shows a boy in a playground hanging on to a set of monkey bars with his strong, cavity-free teeth. The ad was developed by BBDO Guerrero Ortega and was published in magazines targeting mothers. Shown are (from left): Raoul Panes, creative director; Regie Gavino, marketing manager; Carl Urgino, art director; Candy Weber, brand manager; Edg Samson, account director; Tin Sanchez, copywriter. Not in photo: Dave Ferrer, creative director; Natalie Ang, account manager.

Bright Minds On The Move Mall Tour

A DAY of fun and learning awaits you and your child. Take part in Enervon Bright's Bright Minds On The Move Mall Tour. Learn proper nutrition and ways on how you can make your child brighter. Plus there will be activity booths, a puppet show and other surprises your child will surely love. To be hosted by funny mom, Giselle Sanchez, with special participation of child wonder, Goyong. Choose from these venues on these following dates: May 15 - Robinson's Metro East, Cainta; May 21 - Robinson's Galleria; May 28 - SM North Edsa. Registration starts at 10 a.m. upon opening of the mall. Program starts at 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

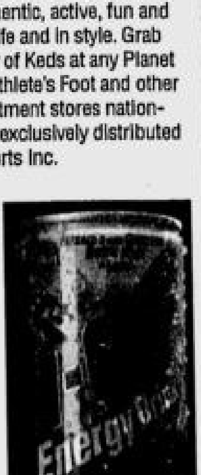
ProductFILES



Keds: Sole history

WOULD anyone know what the first sneaker brand is? In 1916, the Keds brand was introduced by the US Rubber Co as the first national athletic and lifestyle footwear brand. At this time, the shoes were called sneakers, a term invented in late 1916 by Keds advertising agency because the rubber soles made the shoes quiet. Worn by Olympic soccer players, scores of National and International tennis champions, and many college athletes, Keds was coined the shoe of champions because of its reputation as America's premier athletic brand. Not only was Keds a leading athletic brand, it was also the brand of choice for leading style icons due to its classic, stylish, and authentic characteristics. Rich in heritage, strong in performance, and revered in style, the last 89 years have proven that Keds is a champion brand in every way. The future for Keds will continue to bring authentic classic style with innovative advancements in performance and materials to meet the needs of athletic and lifestyle leaders in the 21st century. Keds inspires you to be authentic, active, fun and confident, in life and in style. Grab your own pair of Keds at any Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot and other leading department stores nationwide. Keds is exclusively distributed by Planet Sports Inc.

I-ON energy drink brings instant body-conditioning



THE NEW and fast-acting I-ON energy drink that boasts of a refreshing and great taste is now available in the market. With natural substances of ginseng and royal jelly, this new energy drink shares the heritage of the long and trusted multivitamin brand of Revicon. Royal jelly is a good natural source of energy that contains amounts of proteins, lipids, glucides, vitamins, hormones, enzymes, mineral substances and other elements vital to the human body. Considered as a stimulant, ginseng provides positive effects to the body by increasing its energy level. After taking it for a certain period of time, ginseng is also acknowledged for improving stamina and endurance. Iron is an essential mineral and important component of proteins, two-thirds of which are found in the hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen to your body's tissues. The remaining part can be found in the myoglobin, a protein that helps supply oxygen to muscle, and in some enzymes. Iron is also involved in the oxygen transport and metabolism of the body. And since our body does not create its own vitamins, an outside source is needed to prevent metabolic disorders, thus, it needs multivitamins. A multivitamin consists of various other vitamins such as, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and Vitamin B6 among others. These boosts one's immune system and help in specific functions for the body to work better. When taken, the new I-ON energy drink from Revicon helps in improving physical and mental capabilities of the body leading to the increase of the overall well being of a person.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSAL TO RE-SCHEDULE THE DCS TRAININGS FOR THE THIRD AND FOURTH WAVES COVERING REGIONS IV-B, V, VI AND THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO REGIONS, EXCLUDING ARMM
x--x

Chairman	Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner	Rufino S.B. Javier
Commissioner	Mehol K. Sadain
Commissioner	Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner	Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner	Virgilio O. Garcillano
Commissioner	Manuel A. Barcelona, Jr.

Promulgated: 13 May 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7500

This pertains to the 10 May 2005 Memorandum of Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain, Commissioner-in-Charge, VVS, relative to the memorandum of Director Ernesto del Rosario, Information Technology Department, on the proposal to re-schedule the DCS trainings for the Third and Fourth waves covering Regions IV-B, V, VI and the Visayas and Mindanao regions, excluding ARMM.

The Memorandum of Commissioner Sadain reads:

"This pertains to the attached memorandum dated May 10, 2005 of ITD Director Ernesto del Rosario regarding changes in schedule of the DCS trainings for the third and fourth waves covering Regions IV-B, V, and the Visayas and Mindanao regions, excluding ARMM.

The reasons given for the revised schedules of the DCS trainings are as follows, to wit:

- *the delayed certification of availability of funds (and release of the same) for the nationwide training, even given (the earlier) staggered schedule;*
- *the need to send technical staff to the ARMM in order to provide on-site technical assistance to the generation of the precinct-level computerized voters list (PCVL) for posting purposes; and*
- *the training schedule for DFA personnel.*

Below are the proposed schedules for the DCS trainings of the remaining provinces, together with the corresponding proposed date of the resumption of the system of continuing registration:

REGION	*TRAINING PERIOD*	*RESUMPTION OF THE CONTINUING REGISTRATION*
IV-B, V, VI	*May 30 - June 11*	*June 13, 2005*
VII, VIII, IX, X, XI XII, CARAGA	*June 27 - July 9*	*July 11, 2005*

In view of the foregoing, undersigned CIC hereby recommends the approval of the revised DCS training schedules and the corresponding proposed date of the resumption of the system of continuing registration as listed above, and to immediately allocate and release the budget needed for the above trainings. It must be noted that NCR, CAR, Regions I, II, III and IV-A, having gone through the DCS trainings, shall resume the system of continuing registration on May 16, 2005. Attached are the revised training plans with their corresponding budgets.

In connection with the foregoing; may we also bring to the attention of the Commission en banc through the CIC for the OAV that possible confusion may arise from the poster for the OAV registration. The poster pegs the resumption of the OAV registration on October 1, 2005 but the same is not immediately clear in the poster, and may lead people to think that October 1, 2005 is the date of resumption of the nationwide local continuing registration and instead of just the OAV registration.

For en banc consideration.

Considering the foregoing, the Commission, RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES, to approve the recommendation of Director Ernesto del Rosario, Information Technology Department, as concurred in by Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain, to re-schedule the DCS trainings for the Third and Fourth waves covering Regions IV-B, V, VI and the Visayas and Mindanao regions, excluding ARMM, due to the afore-cited reasons, to wit:

REGION	TRAINING PERIOD
IV-B, V, VI	May 30 - June 11
VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA	June 27 - July 9

RESOLVED, moreover, to direct the Education and Information Department, to emphasize in their information campaign relative to the resumption of the system of continuing registration that October 1, 2005 pertains only to the Overseas Absentee Voting Registration (OAV) and not to the nationwide resumption of registration.

Let the Executive Director in coordination with the Information Technology Department and Education and Information Department implement this resolution.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, Sr.
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

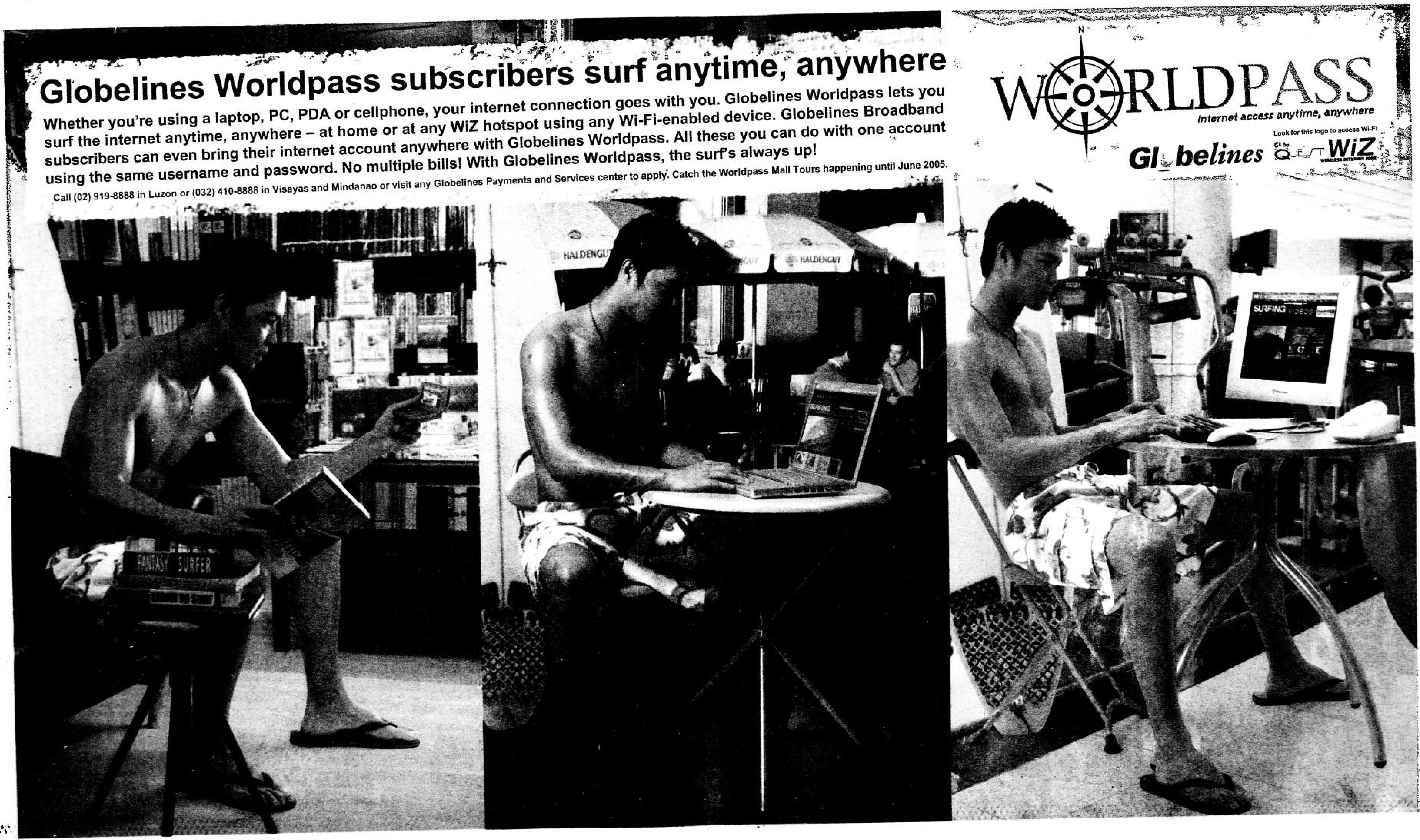
(on Official Business)
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

(on Official Business)
MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

CC *Chairperson*
All Commissioners
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Information Technology Department
Education and Information Department

(PDI – May 14, 2005)



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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Affordable condo developer shares tips to successful project

By Charles E. Buban

THE SUCCESS generated by Smile Citihomes I and Smile Annex in Quezon City in the late '90s has encouraged its developer, Phinma Property Holdings Corp. (PPHC), to focus more on similar affordable condominium type of developments.

Indeed, PPHC did a follow up in 2004 with the launch of Sunny Villas, also in Quezon City.

It made real estate history when some of its units were sold for as low as P4,300 a month (through Pag-Ibig) at no or low down payment scheme, which was for the full loan amount and not just for the down payment amortization.

Phenomenal

As expected, home buyers' response was phenomenal as PPHC was able to sell out the 812-unit project in less than a year with construction being completed in a year.

"The success of Sunny Villas heralds a new offering in affordable but high-quality condominium living," describes PPHC chief executive officer Willie Uy.

He relates that Sunny Villas improved on its predecessors by offering more affordable payment package as well as architectural design and master planning never before seen in its price bracket (inclusion of wash and

AFFORDABLE/ B2-2

SPAZIO Bernardo is PPHC's next medium-rise housing project located at the heart of Quezon City.

Brittany Corporation's Island Park

A life that says don't worry, be happy

The popular reggae song best captures what life is about at Island Park. Don't worry. Be happy. It's a life where you can relax, enjoy things—feel like there's nothing to be bothered with and there's everything to be joyful for.

Island Park is the perfect setting for this worry-free, happy life. You can see it in the golden coconut trees and tropical flowers as they sway with the wind, as if dancing to a reggae rhythm. You can feel it in the gentle warmth of the tropical sun as it gives life to everything it touches. It is a Caribbean paradise found.

A luxury residential community that covers over 50 hectares, Island Park is the latest themed development from property maverick Brittany Corporation. Island Park takes its rhythm, its beat, its inspiration from the great Caribbean homes.

The miniature falls at the fountain rotunda: a tropical centerpiece

Space for celebrating life. This tropical paradise is a joyous oasis in the middle of the progressive city of Dasmariñas, Cavite. Designed with great expanses, Island Park offers a generous development to open space ratio, 55:45. This ratio is extraordinary for a property in the congestion of Metro Manila.

The interiors of Island Park's homes are both cozy and comfortable

Homes are patterned after the architecture of Caribbean homes. A combination of Spanish and French architecture, Caribbean homes are designed for life out of doors. Similarly, Island Park's homes take full advantage of the property's warm sun and the cool winds with verandas and generous windows. Planks bleached by the wind and sun, bright, lively colors on the exteriors, teak accents and highly pitched roofs complete the Caribbean feel.

Island Park takes its rhythm, its beat, its inspiration from the great Caribbean homes

Single-family model homes are spacious, ranging from 176 sq. m. to 240 sq. m. in floor area. Custom home sites are larger than usual, from 300 sq. m. to 700 sq. m. in lot area. You have more than enough room to create your paradise home.

Moreover, along a 2.7 hectare stretch of land, the sports and recreation facility interweaves with the tropical greenery. You can play basketball, tennis, and sand volleyball. Take a leisurely trek on the trail. Have a picnic under the shading trees. Kids can enjoy the afternoons away at the play park. Or host a party in the open-air pavilion. At Island Park, you have all the facilities you need for all the activities that make life worth celebrating.

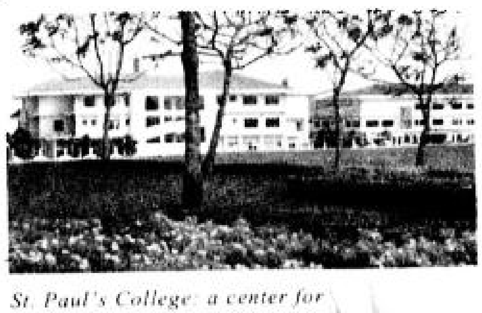
Island Park is for your convenience. Along with a life of celebration, Island Park affords a life of convenience. Right inside the property, one of the country's finest educational institutions, St. Paul's College, is readily available. Your kids won't have to go far for quality schooling. Near Island Park, SM City Dasmariñas, Robinsons Dasmariñas and the soon to open SM Molino as well as banks, and other learning institutions provide for just about anything you need in a relaxed life. And it's a short drive to Tagaytay, the beaches of Batangas and nearby golf courses.

Island Park is a result of close collaboration between Brittany and some of the finest minds in property development. Master planning was designed with renowned planner David Jensen, based in Denver, Colorado.

The tropical landscaping was conceptualized with the SWA Group.

At Island Park, the tropical resort-like ambience, the recreational facilities, the expansive lay of the land and the convenient location make for a setting that's ideal for a Caribbean life that's relaxed, worry-free and happy.

Island Park's homes take design influences from the architecture of Caribbean homes



St. Paul's College: a center for education inside Island Park

Discover how you too can live a life that says don't worry, be happy. Get a Property Preview at Island Park. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Feng shui one way to achieve peace of mind

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

DESPITE modern technology and the urbanized lifestyles of today, many people still subscribe to some age-old arts and traditions when building their homes and offices. One of the most popular set of principles is the practice of feng shui, pronounced by locals as "fung suy" or by westerners as "fung shway."

The name is derived from the Chinese terms for "wind" and "water," which as the traditional sources of energy, must coexist in perfect balance to bring peace and tranquility to their users.

'Secrets of the ages'

Feng shui is a compendium of over 2000 years of study by Chinese sages on aspects that affect the energies surrounding people, including their environment and structures. The emperors employed mathematicians and scientists to study the cyclic forces, seasonal changes, astronomy, geology, geometry and coupled these with intuition and common sense. They wanted to harness positive energy, the "chi," toward good health and prosperity.

This knowledge eventually filtered down to the commoners and also found its way to the rest of the world. Through the centuries, many have used these "secrets of the ages" and swear to their efficacy. People, after all, in their desire for perfection and happy lives, will try anything.

If you believe that feng shui will work for you when building your home or place of business, reading up on the art may help. Or you may take your interest a step further and consult geomancers and feng shui masters for advice. The principles can be married with the most modern designs to come up with the structure that will satisfy you.

Other approaches

On the other hand, each one of us possesses a sense of what is good or bad, only the intensity varies. We are free to chose what is best for us. No one is in a better position to tell you what will work for you more than yourself. There are no strict rules or guidelines to follow. We need not be very rigid. We only need to follow our intuition, our gut feel.

As long as we do not compromise the welfare of others, then this is all right too. The main objective is to achieve that form of perfection, beauty and peace as we see it. Once we realize these, we can then have peace of mind and be inspired to creative and productive living.

For many, communing with nature puts oneself in a positive mental attitude. For people like this, open planning, wide windows, or indoor gardens will make it easier to appreciate nature, and thereby recharge them.

For others, prayer and spirituality orients one toward a positive direction. This is attained by placing revered icons in central locations in their homes.

Likewise, simplicity and straightforwardness in the design or in patterns will help unclutter thinking. Simple lines and forms also result in easy maintenance and thus, lighter housework.

Colors are likewise important keys to moods and feelings. Psychological studies on colors and their effect on us can be very enlightening and helpful when designing and decorating our homes.

Positive mental attitude

For as long as you can put yourself in a positive mental attitude—be it through the tenets of feng shui or any practical approaches—you create for yourself a positive lifestyle and enable peace of mind. To think is to create. Believe that you are lucky and you will be. Open yourself to opportunities and you will recognize them when they knock.

Once you have a positive attitude, you become healthier—mentally and physically. Your creativity and drive are enhanced, which enables you to grow more in your career. The brighter outlook makes you a more pleasing person and may inspire the people around you to be the same.

Architects, planners groups designing Creba Expo 2005

FOUR associations of architects and environmental planners started designing the physical arrangements of the Creba Expo 2005 at the World Trade Center set on July 27-30.

Aside from hundreds of exhibitors' booths offering real estate products and services, a "piazza" in the middle of the expo venue and adjacent sections will host separate forums on real estate topics for both the public and professionals.

The Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (Pala), the Philipppine Institute of Architects (PIA), the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) have agreed to work together for what is planned as the biggest and creative exposition of all kinds of property products available in the country.

They were represented by their respective presidents—Mary Ann Espina, Delfin M. Pantangco Jr., Edric Marco Florentino and Commissioner Francis Dañgalan of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HUDCC).

Most important project

With the theme "Our World under One Roof," Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) executive vice president Rosemarie C. Basa, who is also the expo chair, said the expo is the industry chamber's most important project of the year.

The main objective is to bring together real estate developers, local and foreign investors, financing institutions and banks and the public—buyers and families interested in acquiring homes and other types of real estate projects.

Basa said the country is beginning to feel an upsurge in demand for property, especially in the international market.

Pala's Espina promised to help transform the expo site into a community with a garden-like atmosphere and environment-friendly design.

The special teams, led by Henry Olonan (UAP), Manolet Icasas, Noel Sabilan and Terry Sumaray (PIA), Malou Alampay and Pete Rarallo (PIEP), envision a World Trade Center of "architectural delight."

Expo space planning

Basa said the architects' associations will use the products of Vazbuilt, MGS, Berde Plants, Metts Plants Arts and Cypress Bomanite to embellish the exposition's various sections.

Street signs will be provided for convenience of visitors and participants, while golf carts will be available for the elderly when they do their "one world under one roof" tours.

The overall exposition space planning was personally prepared by architect Nathaniel von Einsiedel, a Creba director and well-known urban environmental planner.

Expo features

The expo will showcase all types of horizontal and vertical development projects from upscale condominiums, medium condominiums to low-cost and socialized housing, ecozones, vacation and retirement villages, time shares, spas, resorts, wellness centers, farm lots, golf courses and clubs, memorial parks, columbariums and vacation resorts.

Suppliers of housing materials, home products and technologies and bank representatives offering housing financing facilities will also be on hand.

Visitors, Basa said, will enjoy viewing and buying their preferred real estate projects and learn a lot during forums on various interesting, relevant and exciting topics involving real estate, including feng shui free of charge.

Among the substantive features of the expo are auctions on various acquired assets of banks and Pag-Ibig Fund housing loan orientation sessions, a job fair that is expected to draw thousands of applicants, and a business matching to bring investors, suppliers and distributors together.

Convenience retail center attracts motorists to Bonifacio Global City

ONCE merely just places to get some basic items with your gasoline, convenience retail centers geared for motorists are no longer what they used to be. They now also offer branded coffee, fast-food meals and even banking facilities.

At the one-hectare Bonifacio Stopover at Bonifacio Global City, the list of conveniences available is even longer. In this retail hub, one can choose from close to 20 food outlets that include Pancake House, Brother's Burgers, Pho-Bac, Tsim Sha Tsui, Starbucks and Gloria Jeans. There is also a 7-11 as well as a Shell gas station with a Select retail outlet, and even Bruno's Barbers and Ralph's Wines.

Strategically located

One of the most strategically located convenience centers within Metro Manila, the Bonifacio Stopover has proven to be a real advantage for employees and their children seeking a quick bite while on their way to work and to school. It is also frequented by yuppies on their way home from after-work sports events.

The Bonifacio Stopover is also ideal for Makati workers seeking affordable meals as well as quick access to parking at lunchtime. Its closeness to Makati has also made it a convenient meeting place for executives and entrepreneurs.

Shell officials attest to the Stopover's high volume of clients and disclose that it hit its fuel volume target within the first four months of operation. The station, which has won a number of Shell awards, is now selling 800,000 liters per month, way above its original goal. Jollibee, Chowking and Pizza Hut have also built sizable stores in the area in recognition of the brisk traffic of this growing business center.

More innovative retail ideas

According to Jun Bisnar, head for commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Bonifacio Stopover has proven to be one of the more innovative retail concepts of Bonifacio Global City, the emerging business district which was formerly a military camp. "Bonifacio Stopover capitalizes on the very convenient location of Bonifacio Global City," he says. "It is highly visible to all the motorists going to and from C5 to the Makati Business District through the Kalayaan Flyover and Buendia."

BIGG TOPPS
Pho bac VIETNAMESE

BONIFACIO Global City's Stopover offers the widest range of food and convenience outlets for motorists. Other projects that will sustain the buildup of the district into a full-blow business capital are also in the works.

In February 2005, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for the new St. Luke's Medical Center, which will rise on a 1.6-hectare lot just a few meters away from Bonifacio Stopover. This 600-bed hospital is expected to significantly increase activity in the area, especially when it is completed by 2008. Similar to its existing hospital in Quezon City, this new St. Luke's branch is expected to uphold the highest standards in the country.

More property buyers

Bonifacio Global City has been drawing more visitors and buyers of commercial, office and residential pieces of property ever since Ayala Land Inc. and the Campos Group acquired controlling interest in FBDC in April 2003.

"What we are seeing is a keen interest in Bonifacio Global City," observes Bisnar. "And we will continue to embark on projects that will sustain the buildup of the district into a full-blown business capital."

Bisnar also disclosed that the master plan for the emerging city was currently under review. Ayala Land planners and foreign consultants are studying how to improve the traffic, transport, pedestrian and parking systems of Bonifacio Global City, as well as its parks, open areas and other amenities. The goal is to ensure that Bonifacio Global City will meet all the needs of businesses and residents in the future.

Affordable

From page B1

dry area, wider and brighter stairways, and improved ventilation.

"Perhaps, these qualities are the ones most buyers are looking for, nowadays," he believes.

Judicious

Uy notices that home buyers have become more knowledgeable and discriminating—a reason majority of developers are investing on careful positioning of their products as well as giving more value to the package they are selling.

"We believe that Filipino home buyers deserve better quality of living that's why we've made condominium living as affordable as possible but whose quality of workmanship is uncompromising," explains Uy.

The PPHC also made sure their developments are within Metro Manila. In the case of Smile projects and Sunny Villas, they are located near major roads, educational centers, hospitals and shopping centers.

Modern system

Furthermore, Uy reveals that they use a modern building system that can be built fast but without sacrificing structural integrity.

The cast-in-place construction method that PPHC employs uses solid reinforced concrete walls rather than hollow blocks for a sturdier structure.

"Because of our method, we are able to deliver smooth walls that do not require columns and beams that might otherwise hinder interior layout," explains Uy.

PPHC is now a leading developer of affordable medium-rise housing (also known as MRBs) in Metro Manila with more than 3,000 units excluding single-detached and townhouse projects.

No stopping

Uy promises PPHC will not stop in providing similar developments in the near future.

"We will soon be launching an Italian-inspired project, still in Quezon City. To be known as Spazio Bernardo, this development will involve 986 condominium units in 10 villas," reveals Uy.

The said project will offer a private enclave for young families, self-employed individuals and overseas Filipino workers, who will be Spazio Bernardo's target market.

He adds that all these projects will never be possible without PPHC's close partnership with the local government of Quezon City, Pag-Ibig, and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

"The PPHC is fully committed to its responsibility as a community builder. We are delighted by the fact that our housing projects evolve into communities whose residents live together harmoniously," says Uy.

How to profit from $27-B Fil-Am market

THERE has been a growing trend for Filipino-Americans, on account of their becoming dual citizens, to invest on Philippine property.

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If you need further info, contact Ed Pascual at 1-818-507-1812 or e-mail at edpascual_2000@yahoo.com.

GROUNDBREAKING RITE

Megatronics Resources Corp. breaks ground at Filinvest Technology Park Calamba (FTPC). Among those present on-site are Megatronics president Wilson C. Wy Tiu and family, Antonio P. Tecson, Sean Philip R. Imperial and Arnold P. Canaria (Filinvest Land Inc.), and Estelito M. Mendoza (Cityville Realty and Dev't Corp.). Megatronics will be putting up a series of ready-built factory buildings for lease. For inquiries, please call 809-2582 or 722-4526.

Eastwood Parkview fast taking shape

CONSTRUCTION has reached the 15.7 percent mark for one of Megaworld Corp.'s fastest-selling projects, the twin-tower Eastwood Parkview luxury residential development in Eastwood City.

Now complete are superstructure works for its five basement levels and ground floor.

Eastwood Parkview is slated for completion by the last quarter of 2008.

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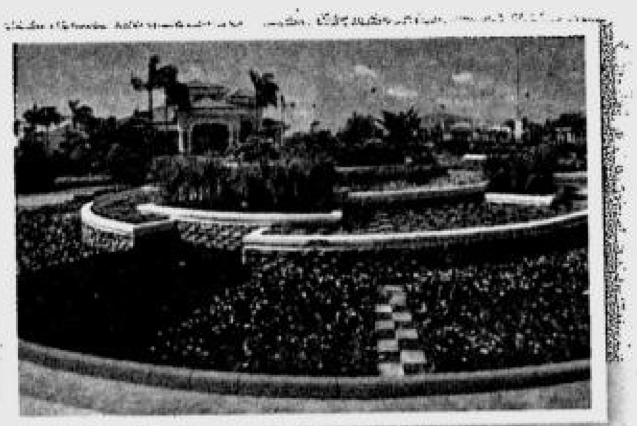

Rotunda

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INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Sentricon or a house of steel?

THERE'S a revolutionary way to end termite worries and it doesn't involve tearing down your home and building one that's made of steel.

When businessman and former real estate practitioner Richard Somes built his house in 1995, he had it termite-proofed. "I made the proper treatments before I built the house: I had the soil treated and performed chemical applications on the wood," he recalls.

Says Somes: "You try to follow the necessary steps to avoid infestation but I guess my best wasn't good enough. A couple of years after I built the house, the first signs of infestation occurred."

Upsetting

For someone who came from the real estate industry, termite infestation is especially upsetting: "If you're building your own house or somebody else's house, it's distressing to have termite troubles. The problem with termites is that when you treat one place, the termites move to another area, like cancer that spreads to other parts of the body. It's like you're always running after them, but of course in the end, the termites always win because they can go into all these nooks and crevices that you can't reach."

Around this time, Somes was receiving for his Australian-based architect brother correspondence from the United Architects of the Philippines. When he browsed through one of those direct mailers, there was information about a new system called Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System but he didn't give it thorough consideration.

Call for help

Then in 2000, when infestation in his place got worse, he stumbled upon the Sentricon brochure that he had browsed previously. Unwilling to endure the infestation any longer, he decided to give the new system a try.

Entom Pest Control & General Services Corp., authorized operator of Sentricon System and owned by Elmer Baradas, heeded Somes' call for help. "Their explanation of the baiting system is logical. Although skeptical at first, I thought it made sense," says Somes.

Confident

On the side of Entom, the staff was confident it could solve the problem. When the revolutionary technology of Sentricon became available in the Philippines, it produced in pest control operators the confidence of being able to guarantee home and property owners complete termite colony elimination in a few months.

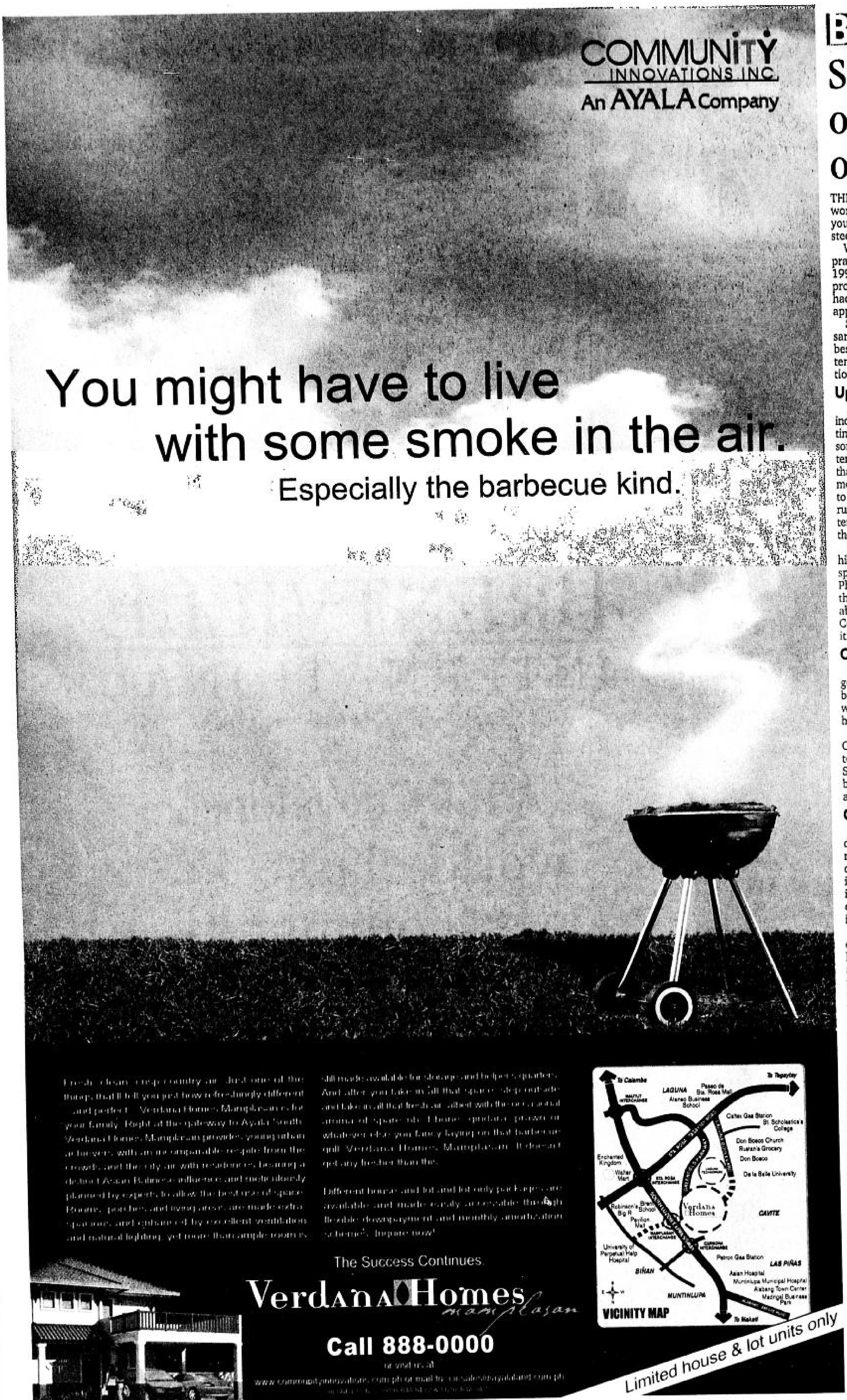
Although the cost surprised Somes at the outset, the businessman-real estate guy in him justified the cost. He computed the amount of money he was spending using ineffective chemicals, and considered other factors like the inconvenience and the hours wasted treating and repairing termite-damaged panels. Finally, Somes gave it the benefit of the doubt and tried the system.

Sentricon eliminates entire colonies by getting termites where they live, right in the places that people can't hope to reach. It was hailed internationally as the biggest thing to happen in the pest control industry in the last 50 years. Today, Sentricon protects the White House, the Statue of Liberty, some Philippine historical sites, other important landmarks and many homes and pieces of property in different continents around the world.

Best protection

Within six weeks, infestation in Somes' home ceased. The treatment had been a success that he decided to have Sentricon installed in his other infested house in the same subdivision. "It worked! Like anything else, if it works, then it justifies the investment. It becomes an investment."

To enable more people to give their property the best protection possible, Entom offers credit card payment through Bank of the Philippine Island and MasterCard with installments of three, six, nine, 12 months or up to two years. Put an end to your nagging termite woes and call Entom Pest Control at 850-0276, 809-1685 or 842-4724, or visit the website at www.sentricon.com.



Fresh, clean, crisp country air. Just one of the things that'll tell you just how refreshingly different — and perfect — Verdana Homes Mamplasan is for your family. Right at the gateway to Ayala South, Verdana Homes Mamplasan provides young urban achievers with an incomparable respite from the crowds and the city air with residences bearing a distinct Asian Balinese influence and meticulously planned by experts to allow the best use of space. Rooms, porches, and living areas are made extra spacious and enhanced by excellent ventilation and natural lighting, yet more than ample room is still made available for storage and helper's quarters. And after you take in all that space, step outside and take in all that fresh air, albeit with the occasional aroma of spare ribs, t-bone steaks, prawns or whatever else you fancy laying on that barbecue grill. Verdana Homes Mamplasan. It doesn't get any fresher than this.

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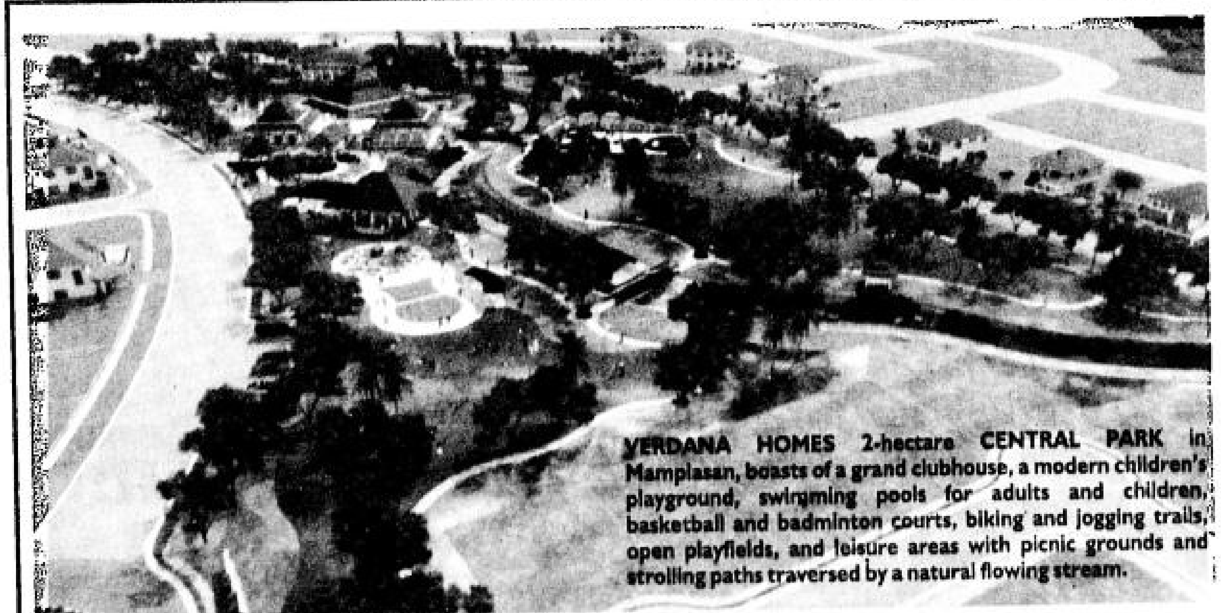


VERDANA HOMES 2-hectare CENTRAL PARK in Mamplasan, boasts of a grand clubhouse, a modern children's playground, swimming pools for adults and children, basketball and badminton courts, biking and jogging trails, open playfields, and leisure areas with picnic grounds and strolling paths traversed by a natural flowing stream.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan Sets Open House on May 15

Families looking for an idyllic community combining Asian-Balinese influences with nature's charm will be welcomed to the gates of Verdana Homes Mamplasan as it holds an Open House on May 15.

Nature lovers and garden enthusiasts will be treated to an exciting line-up of activities including a bonsai and garden exhibit, adhering to the "nature-inspired" ambience of Verdana Homes Mamplasan. There will also be a special showcase of flora and plant varieties by garden shops which visitors can buy for their own gardens. For the kiddies, a face painting activity will be held aside from other surprises.

Conveniently located in Biñan, Laguna, Verdana Homes Mamplasan features exotic Asian-Balinese architecture and a wide range of amenities for the entire family to enjoy. Community Innovations Inc. (CII), an Ayala company, offers this development for today's young urban achievers and families seeking an escape from the pollution and congestion of city life.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan is an emerging community which calls to mind the qualities that made its sister development, Verdana Homes in Bacoor, Cavite, a runaway success. The 35-hectare subdivision features generously-sized lots ranging from 180-500 sqm with modal size at 200 sqm. The development was designed to contain uniquely designed sub-neighborhood clusters that encourage interaction between neighbors. House and lot packages are also being offered for those who wish to avoid the hassles of constructing their own house.

Future residents will enjoy a wide array of amenities that are being fast-tracked for completion to accommodate the growing community. Soon to rise will be a two-hectare Central Park that boasts of a grand clubhouse, swimming pools for adults and children, basketball and badminton courts, a modern children's playground, biking and jogging trails, open playfields, and leisure areas with picnic grounds and strolling paths traversed by a natural flowing stream.

A refreshing innovation in the development is the use of a unique Asian-Balinese motif throughout Verdana Homes Mamplasan. Exotic touches conveying modern Balinese architecture is seen in both the subdivision and the house and lot units facades. Each house and lot unit provides spacious rooms, excellent ventilation, ample storage areas, wide carports, comfortable maids' quarters, and natural lighting - all existing in a pleasant and secure environment.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan enjoys proximity to some of the most prestigious educational institutions, international industrial parks, prime commercial districts, as well as popular vacation spots in Tagaytay and Batangas. Alabang Town Center is just 20 minutes away.

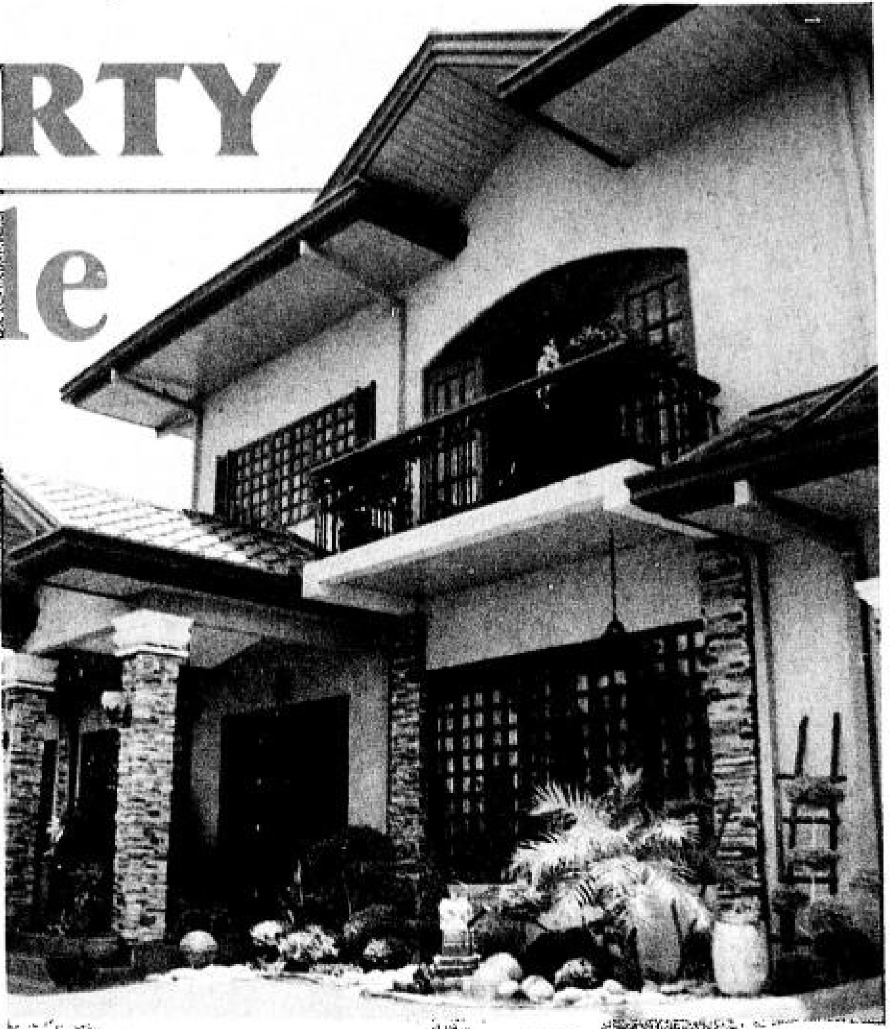
Guests during the Open House event will view the latest developments in the construction of Phase 1 which will be ready for turnover by June 2005. Interested buyers will be given a chance to choose prime spots through flexible down payment and monthly amortization schemes.

For more information, call 888-0000, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph. Interested parties may also visit the sales booth at the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center. ADVT

PROPERTY

A house in the middle of a rice field

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban



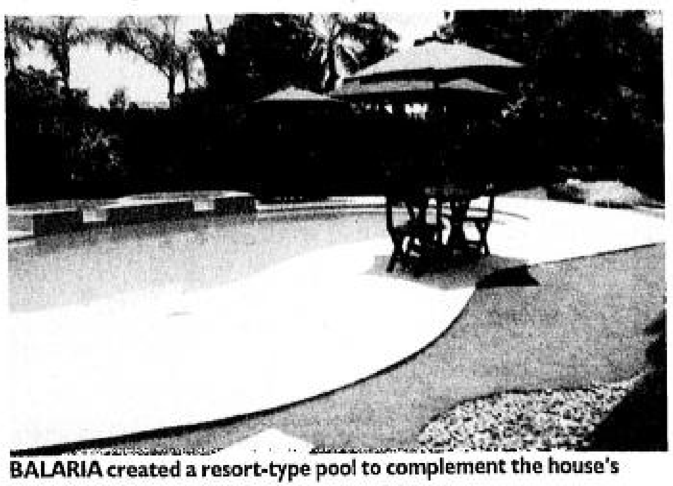
THE HOUSE has a Mediterranean/Southern California architectural design.

AT FIRST glance, Sto. Domingo looks like a typical sleepy town in the countryside. But this farming community, 20 km north of Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, is very much alive when it comes to home architecture and landscaping design.

One example is the one owned by husband and wife Mike and Precy Reeby in Barangay San Agustin.

"There are not many private residences here that can boast a view of a wide expanse of rice fields from their bedroom," says architect Danny Balaria of DP Balaria & Associates (dannybalaria@yahoo.com) of his latest project.

The Reeby residence has achieved this since their 360-square-meter house stands on 1,000-sq-m property dominated by rice fields, which they intend to keep in order to preserve the serene view surrounding their home.



BALARIA created a resort-type pool to complement the house's overall design

Architectural design

The house has Mediterranean/Southern California architectural design (extensive use of earth colors, imported tiles, hardwood ornaments, tall ceilings and outsized windows) complete with swimming pool and landscaped garden with a pond.

"Ms Reeby definitely insisted to have this pond as she wanted water elements to surround their home," says landscape artist Lorenz Inos.

The interior includes antique wood collections of Ms Reeby, which she acquired during her frequent travels in Southeast Asia together with her British husband.

BALARIA

"A check for P5 million should get you the keys to the front door of a similar house," jests Balaria.

Driving concept

According to Balaria, the driving concept behind the design of this house and surrounding property is to provide the homeowners with optimum space both inside the house and in the lush tropical gardens.

"Looking out over the rice field is about as expansive as a view can get, further enhancing the feeling of openness and affiliation with the elements," explains Balaria.

Ms Reeby says they want their home to have an exciting, open look that would blend in the rural setting of the community.

"My husband and I wanted a home where we can be more relaxed," reveals Ms Reeby.

MS REEBY standing in her most favorite part of the house: the kitchen

Future plans

On his future plans, this University of Santo Tomas graduate sees his custom home business progressing in the next few years.

Says Balaria: "It's great that my local clientele is expanding tremendously. Because of many satisfied clients, I now have been asked to do designs of other types of unique, luxury living accommodations, elegant abodes in resort locales like the one I'm building in Subic."

Apart from private homes in Nueva Ecija, Balaria's current projects include resorts, office and commercial buildings in and outside the province.

LANDSCAPE artist Inos chose the appropriate garden plants to to match his naturally-looking plants.

Most capacious building

AMAZING STRUCTURES

BOEING Company's Everett manufacturing complex in Washington

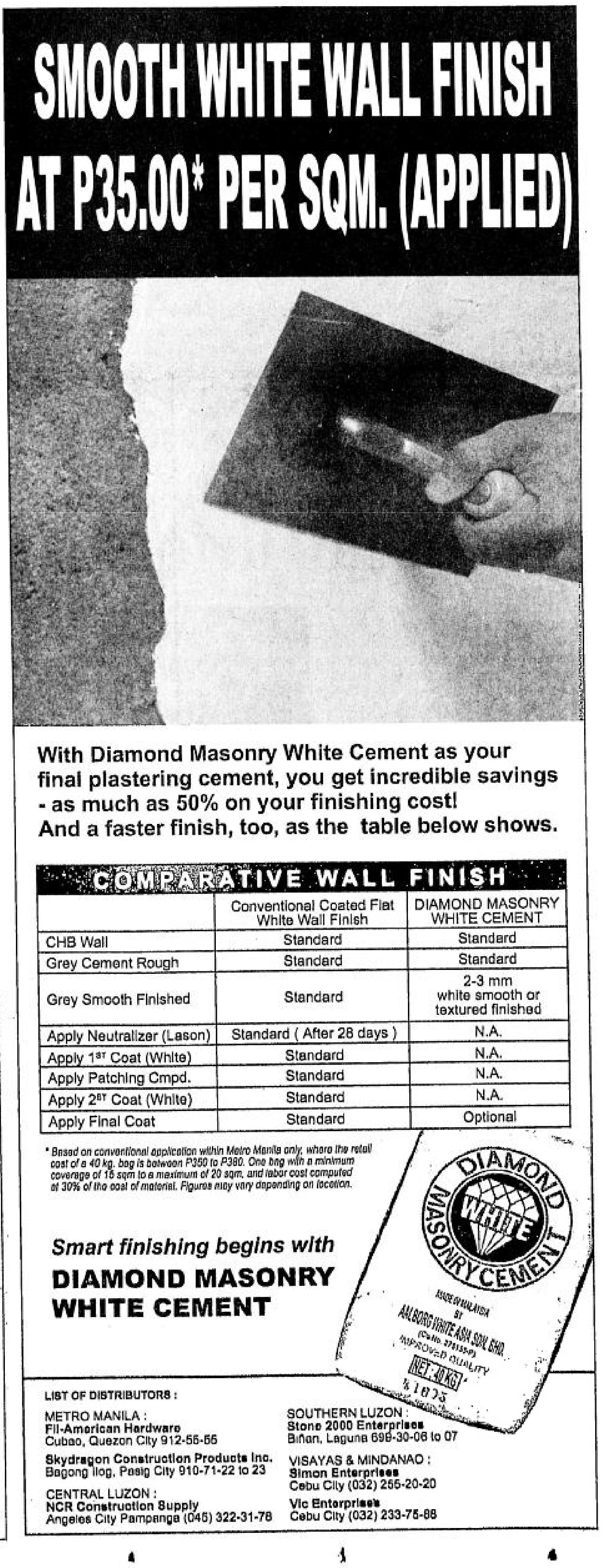
WHEN THE BOEING Co. announced in 1966 that it would make the world's largest jet airliner little did everyone expect that they would also be building the world's most capacious building.

A record holder in the Guinness World Records, the Boeing Co.'s Everett assembly plant in Washington, United States, has an indoor floor area of 39.8 hectares and a total volume of 13.4 million cubic meters. The gargantuan facility, which was completed in 1968, is where the Boeing 747, 767 and 777 are assembled.

Tours of the Everett manufacturing complex began in the same year it was completed, wherein over 39,000 visitors explored the most expansive building in the world. Today, the Boeing plant brings together about 110,000 tourists annually, making it one of the more popular tourist attractions in Washington.

Visitors to the mammoth Everett facility include presidents, prime ministers and other leaders from various countries.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



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Apply 1ST Coat (White)	Standard	N.A.
Apply Patching Cmpd.	Standard	N.A.
Apply 2ST Coat (White)	Standard	N.A.
Apply Final Coat	Standard	Optional

* Based on conventional application within Metro Manila only, where the retail cost of a 40 kg. bag is between P350 to P380. One bag with a minimum coverage of 16 sqm to a maximum of 20 sqm, and labor cost computed at 30% of the cost of material. Figures may vary depending on location.

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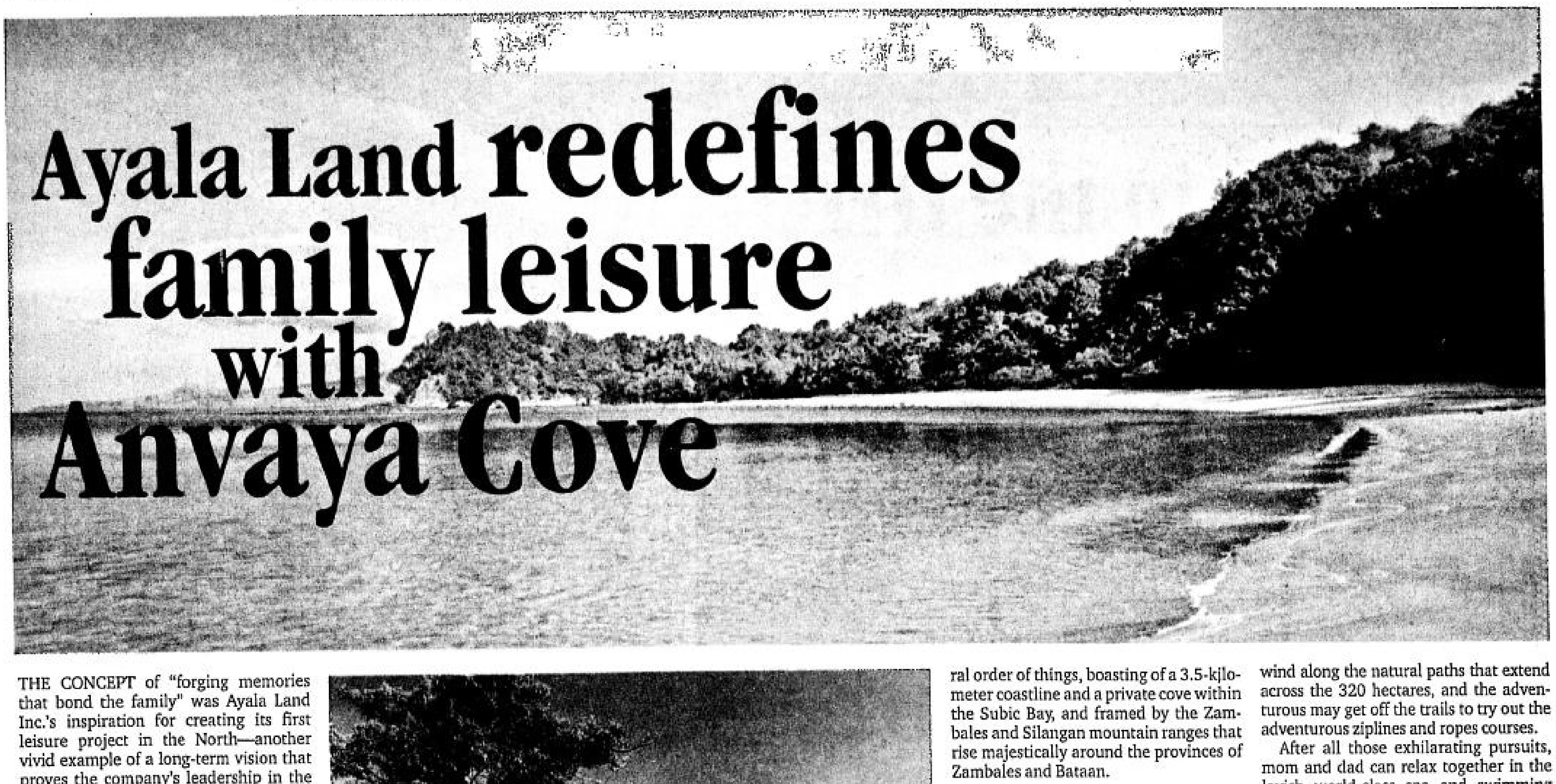
Ayala Land redefines family leisure with Anvaya Cove



THE CONCEPT of "forging memories that bond the family" was Ayala Land Inc.'s inspiration for creating its first leisure project in the North—another vivid example of a long-term vision that proves the company's leadership in the real property market. The name selected for this pioneering project is Anvaya Cove, a name drawn from the ancient Sanskrit word that means "family."

"Of all the people in the world, Filipinos are the ones who put family above all," said ALI vice president Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo, who is also the head of the company's leisure and lifestyle communities group. "Despite our busy schedules, most of us strive to make time for our families. We love to enjoy life and consider these leisure moments as valuable opportunities to bond with each other."

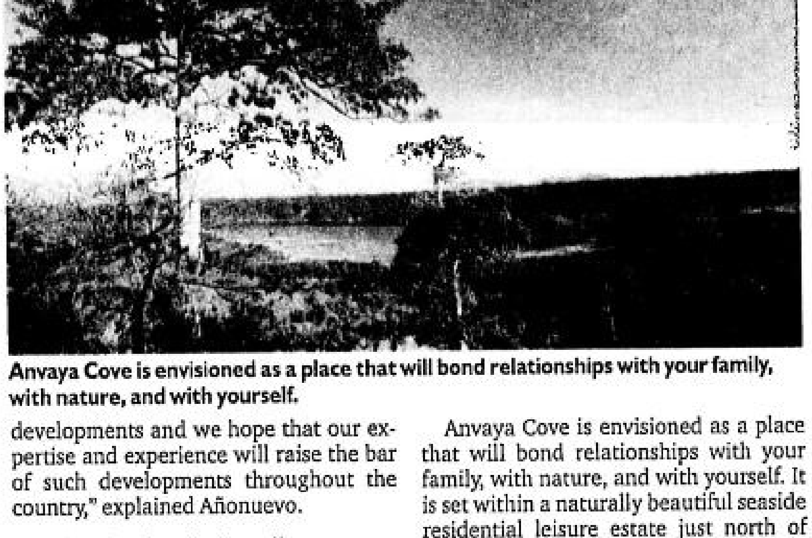
Anvaya also pertains to the concept of "the natural order of things," a concept embodied in this development that will strive to work with the lay of the land and enhance the natural beauty of the varied characteristics of the landscapes within.

"To us in Ayala, Anvaya Cove is more than just a leisure venue—it is a community where families will truly thrive," added Añonuevo.

Residential resort dev'ts

ALI's decision to embark on this landmark development was also sparked by the fact that, for many years now, the demand for residential resorts and leisure living has been growing in the country.

"Ayala Land has recognized the potential of venturing into residential resort developments and we hope that our expertise and experience will raise the bar of such developments throughout the country," explained Añonuevo.



Anvaya Cove is envisioned as a place that will bond relationships with your family, with nature, and with yourself.

Setting for family bonding

"Through Anvaya Cove, we hope to redefine the concept of a leisure community by merging it with the concept of family togetherness while retaining, protecting and harnessing the natural beauty that already exists in the site." Thus is born a first-of-its-kind leisure residential resort where every aspect is geared toward creating the perfect setting for meaningful family bonding.

Anvaya Cove is envisioned as a place that will bond relationships with your family, with nature, and with yourself. It is set within a naturally beautiful seaside residential leisure estate just north of Manila—in the neighboring town of Morong, Bataan, near the pulsating leisure destination of the SBMA with its many new restaurants and activity nodes such as the Ocean Adventure, El Kabayo, Zoobic, Extreme Adventure, eco-trails and the like. Enjoying the full resources and backing of ALI, Anvaya Cove has now become the country's most anticipated leisure development site.

Anvaya Cove truly embraces the natural order of things, boasting of a 3.5-kilometer coastline and a private cove within the Subic Bay, and framed by the Zambales and Silangan mountain ranges that rise majestically around the provinces of Zambales and Bataan.

Dynamic leisure lifestyle

Spanning a total area of 320 hectares, Anvaya Cove will primarily offer a beach and nature club and residential components comprised of neighborhood lots and villas for the perfect vacation or even primary and retirement homes.

The Beach and Nature Club is the heart of Anvaya Cove's dynamic leisure lifestyle. It is designed for numerous recreational family bonding activities centered around specific natural offerings of the site. There is a recreational beach area with a lookout tower, beach bar and grill, and cabanas for relaxation. There is also an expansive pool area for adults and kids.

At the water sports pavilion, parents and children can also have endless fun hours on jetskis, speed boats and rafts. Families can sign up for sunset cruises, island picnics, or deep sea fishing. They can also choose to learn all about scuba diving, sailing and surfing with various lessons and clinics.

At the lagoon recreational area, both young and old can embark on row boating and fishing; hobbies such as kite-flying. Frisbee and mini soccer games can be enjoyed at the Great Lawn, a large open field developed especially for such big group activities.

Biking and hiking and nature trails will wind along the natural paths that extend across the 320 hectares, and the adventurous may get off the trails to try out the adventurous ziplines and ropes courses.

After all those exhilarating pursuits, mom and dad can relax together in the lavish world-class spa and swimming pool facility. Then they can also choose to stroll with the kids along the sand.

Thriving seaside community

The residential component of Anvaya Cove, meanwhile, is comprised of both neighborhood lots and villas. The development is not meant to be a passing leisure destination but as a thriving seaside residential community where grand beach villas will soon be built to offer the perfect home from starting families to grandparents to the generations after.

With the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) road improvements in place and the new Clark-Subic Highway quickly on its way to completion, reaching the site would require less travel time. The experience of Anvaya Cove's in nature bonding and adventure will soon extend beyond its borders to welcome all families.

And soon, just as the milestone natural and man-made wonders of history are known by their names, Anvaya Cove could very well be the top of mind for Filipino families seeking the ultimate and most memorable leisure lifestyle in the Philippines.

For information on Ayala Land projects, call 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph.

A sense of living in the world's best places

THE HIGH-END residential property market consists of individuals having the privilege of owning beautiful homes, or else they earn the means via successful corporate careers or entrepreneurship. With their knowledge of the finer things in life shaped by education and travel, they want homes commensurate to their refined tastes, with two general criteria:

- Homes that are comfortable and elegant
- Homes that edify the spirit by reflecting the sophisticated knowledge of the world which they possess.

Upscale residential communities

With this key insight in mind, Brittany Corp. in the last 10 years has established a track record of building upscale residential communities that are not only master-planned—with inputs from respected international consultants like David Jensen in Colorado and the SWA Group in California—but distinguished by the thoughtful application of themes inspired by the world's best destinations.

- **Brittany Bay.** A collection of neighborhoods strategically located between the Sucat and Bicutan interchanges off South Luzon Expressway, Brittany Bay, the corporation's flagship project, is inspired by neo-Victorian San Francisco architecture. La Posada is a lovely neighborhood with single-detached home and lot packages. Another neighborhood, Victorianne with its Duettos and Quadrilles, elaborates on the town home concept with a difference, since each residence, reminiscent of those world-famous homes on Postcard Row in San Francisco's Alamo Square, is configured to maximize privacy. Brittany also offers vertical mid-rise living in Viera, a visual symphony of condominiums. Brittany Bay's commercial area even now has become a picturesque destination, with restaurants and al fresco areas overlooking Laguna de Bay.
- **CrossWinds.** A Swiss-inspired weekend retreat in cool Tagaytay, CrossWinds engenders a sense of exclusivity and intimacy. With its thousands of imported pine trees amid rolling terrain, CrossWinds offers choices of chalet-type, single-detached home and lot packages, Swiss Quadrilles in which each of four residences affords private space, and the Grand Quartier, low-rise condos with large, cozy units on picture-pretty terrain. With Brittany's interpretation of the "great room concept," CrossWinds is laid out to maximize open landscapes for all residents to enjoy.
- **Portofino.** Inspired by the Italian seaport of Portofino ("fine gateway") on the Mediterranean with its striking vistas of both sea and mountains, this Brittany community is about the enjoyment of elegant living, "la dolce vita." Its opulent residences are set amid luxurious amenities that include swimming pools inspired by Roman baths, graced by arches, columns and porticos. Portofino South is the location of the Courtyards, clusters of individual homes built around courtyards, in turn surrounding a central courtyard, bringing to life the "courtyard within a courtyard" concept that is the first of its kind in the country.

THE ALPINIA model evokes Caribbean design influences, complementing Island Park's collection of "island villages."

SURROUNDED by rolling terrain and thousands of pine trees, CrossWinds' Swiss Quadrille makes a great Swiss-inspired weekend retreat in Tagaytay.

A VISUAL symphony, Viera offers vertical mid-rise living in Brittany Bay.

- **Island Park.** A collection of "island villages," Island Park is bound by Molino-Paliparan Highway and Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a quick drive away from Alabang via multilane Daanghari. At this 100-hectare enclave, the ratio of open space to development areas is a generous 45:55. Its collection of tropical-inspired villages includes Montego, with design influences drawn from renowned Caribbean resorts. Island Park brings together tropical motifs amid wide-open spaces, fresh air and cool breezes, where children can experience the joys of summer all year.

Use of themes

By using thematic influences, Brittany in each of its communities creates "lifescapes"—esthetic, emotional and physical dimensions for living in, so that every day can be savored to the fullest.

The use of themes is not intended to imitate the places that inspire them, but rather to evoke feel and ambiance, while imparting coherence of character and design that enhances value. The result is a collection of "homes of the world" that stand apart, a signature of Brittany. For previews of Brittany homes and communities, call 850-2868 or 8506986.

Building More Than Just Malls

"Filipinos can look ahead to a more affordable yet higher standard of living."

SM Development Corporation (SMDC), a part of the SM Group of Companies, has made it its goal to provide the Filipino with affordable quality homes. By all indications, the company is not only headed in the right direction, it is proving to be a force to reckon with in the real estate industry.

With a track record that includes the chain of SM Malls all over the country, SMDC definitely has the proven capability to pursue plans in the field of residential and tourism-related developments. This early, **Chateau Elyseé**, a French Mediterranean-inspired community, is already nearing completion. Chateau Elyseé ushers in the condoville concept, a new experience in condominium living evoking a sense of community.

It features six clusters surrounding **a clubhouse** for recreation and social activities, including a **swimming pool**, a **jogging trail**, a **gym**, a **social hall**, and **badminton and basketball courts.** Unit owners thus get more than a place to live. They get to enjoy a cosmopolitan lifestyle.

The Chateau Elyseé gives residents a choice of studio, one, two, and three-bedroom units. Located in Bicutan, Paranaque, it is a quiet, cloistered community, but still conveniently situated just 15 minutes from bustling Makati.

Cluster 1, known as Concorde, is ready for occupancy. Cluster 2, called Lafayette, is nearing completion, while Cluster 3 will be launched soon. The owners will get to enjoy the clubhouse by September.

This weekend, interested buyers who visit the model units at Dona Soledad Avenue Extension, Bicutan, Paranaque City will get to enjoy these fun family activities:

Saturday, May 14: Kiddie film viewing, Chateau Elyseé, 10 AM to 4 PM

Sunday, May 15: Fun hour with clowns, Chateau Elyseé sales office, 10 to 11 AM and 2 to 3 PM

Model units can also be viewed at Building A, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Pasay City.

Aside from Chateau Elyseé, three other SMDC developments are in full swing. **Hamilo** is a 5,200-hectare tourist spot development in Nasugbu, Batangas. A magnificent view of the South China Sea and 31 kilometers of shoreline greet visitors to the site. Hamilo has 13 breathtaking beach coves. It is adjacent to Mt. Palay-Palay National Reserve, a protected natural park. Phase 1 includes residential communities, a sports club, an 18-hole golf course, and a beach club. It will have the most comprehensive water and mountain sports facilities. Once completed, Hamilo will be a paradise resort where visitors can look forward to the best of times. **NorthPointe Residences,** a 16-storey condominium project, will feature an elevated bridgeway that will connect directly to SM City North. **Baguio Residences**, a 10,500 square-meter development, is envisioned to be a condotel that will service both residents and visitors to the country's summer capital.

These projects are just the beginning of what SM Group of Companies Chairman Henry Sy, Sr. envisions to be a long-term commitment to providing Filipinos with quality affordable residences and exciting tourist activity options.

With SM Development Corporation moving forward in the real estate industry, Filipinos can look ahead to a more affordable yet higher standard of living.

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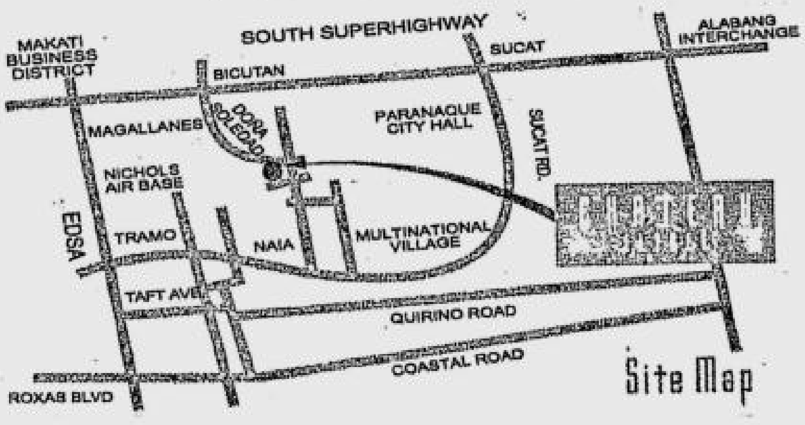

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The art of fine living

THE RAPHAEL'S modern yet inviting living room encourages lounging and great conversations.

By Giselle P. Kasilag
Contributor

SPRAWLED over an area of 117 hectares on the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road is a haven where the grass grows a little greener and the gentle breeze wafting within is a little fresher.

This is Portofino, a romantic Italian village with the advantages of modern conveniences developed by the Brittany Corp. as a reminder of what fine living is truly all about.

The good life

"What do we like about Italian living? The good life! The passion for detail. That is something that we feel that Filipinos are looking for in a development. Culture-wise, there is also something similar with how Filipinos and Italians live. We have extended families. We like living in a grand scale. And those characteristics of Italian living, you will find in Portofino," gushed Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.

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Just five minutes away from the Alabang Town Center and the Madrigal Business Park, the Portofino development is a world all its own. Currently with three enclaves, it consists of Portofino Heights, Courtyards of Portofino, and Portofino South—all fashioned after the ideals of the high life. Despite sharing the same Italian roots, each has its own distinct charm and character.

Most distinctive feature

The Courtyards of Portofino is literally at the heart of this massive development. As the name suggests, it is the courtyard that serves as its most distinctive feature. These cluster of homes are configured in such a way that it surrounds a central courtyard. Thus, the houses form pocket communities that make up the development.

But the more unique feature is the inner courtyard found within each of the homes. There is an open space—either at the center or at the side of the residence—that can be accessed from the surrounding hallways. This particular configuration encourages more family interaction by providing a specific area where members of the household are bound to run into each other. The open layout also allows more sunshine and fresh air to circulate within the structure.

For the master of the household, casitas were integrated in the design with their needs especially in mind. Each home has a room that is slightly set apart from the main house. While ideal for staying guests, it is primarily meant to be a quiet space that would allow the homeowner to indulge in his personal business without being disrupted by the rest of the family.

A finishing touch to these residences is the porticos. These arches that rest elegantly above the columns accent the courtyard design and serve to complete the charming Italian motif.

Exclusive enclave

This exclusive enclave will accommodate only 98 courtyard homes when completed. It offers four model homes—Cezanne, Monet, Raphael and Rembrandt—named after European art masters.

"The Courtyards is Brittany's masterpiece. No development can claim that they were able to capture or develop a concept such as the courtyard within a courtyard. We want to elevate the quality of living in the Philippines. You can't do that by offering houses that are built tightly side by side with hardly any room to breathe. Brittany doesn't do that," Serrano stressed.

This penchant for breathing space while fostering strong community relations is best illustrated within Raphael. Apart from the casita, porticos and inner courtyard resides several other unique and charming features. With a minimum lot area of 300 sq m and floor area of 249 sq m, the three-tiered home exemplifies the Courtyard's design philosophy focusing on man's relationship with art and nature.

LOUNGE at the loft and bask in the natural warmth and light of golden sunshine.

CURL up in comfort and luxury on a magnificent four-poster canopy bed available in the Raphael design option.

Comfortable living area

Upon entering through its wooden doors, guests are greeted by a comfortable living area. It has a steady stream of natural light largely due to the almost floor-to-ceiling arched windows that also allows a gentle breeze to circulate.

Further on is a dining area that is cozy enough for a small family but is actually large enough to accommodate guests for a dinner party. The key lies in the height of the ceiling. It is high enough to make the room appear larger. But the lighting fixtures drop to a comfortable level to give not just ample illumination but a warm and inviting atmosphere, perfect for sharing a good meal among loved ones.

A winding staircase leads to the second level where Raphael's four bedrooms can be found. Again, a gentle breeze and ample sunshine bathes the open area at the center. Wood-and-glass double doors open to a balcony facing the property's drive way—a perfect spot to enjoy the morning paper with a fresh cup of brewed coffee.

Two smaller bedrooms are situated at the right side of the stairs. White moldings on the ceilings and similar touches on the gray walls add accent and character to the charming space. Again, large windows dominate the rooms to ensure that enough fresh air circulates within the structure.

At the foot of the stairs leading to the third level is the guest bedroom—a quiet space that can be converted into a sitting room or office when friends are not staying over. Right across is the master's bedroom—a spacious and relaxing retreat for the homeowners after a busy day at work.

Third level

Finally, the third level is an open space with wooden floors and iron finish. Its curved walls tell the guests that they are within the tower-like structure at the top of the house. The area is ideal for either a quiet office/library or a place for the kids to hang out as a TV/video game room.

"Each of the rooms was designed with a specific user in mind," volunteered Nova Noval, head of Corporate Communications. She added that the homes, without sacrificing style, were very functional. "It's not just a showroom or a museum for display. Families can really live here. And the spaces can be converted to suit their specific requirements and ensure their maximum comfort."

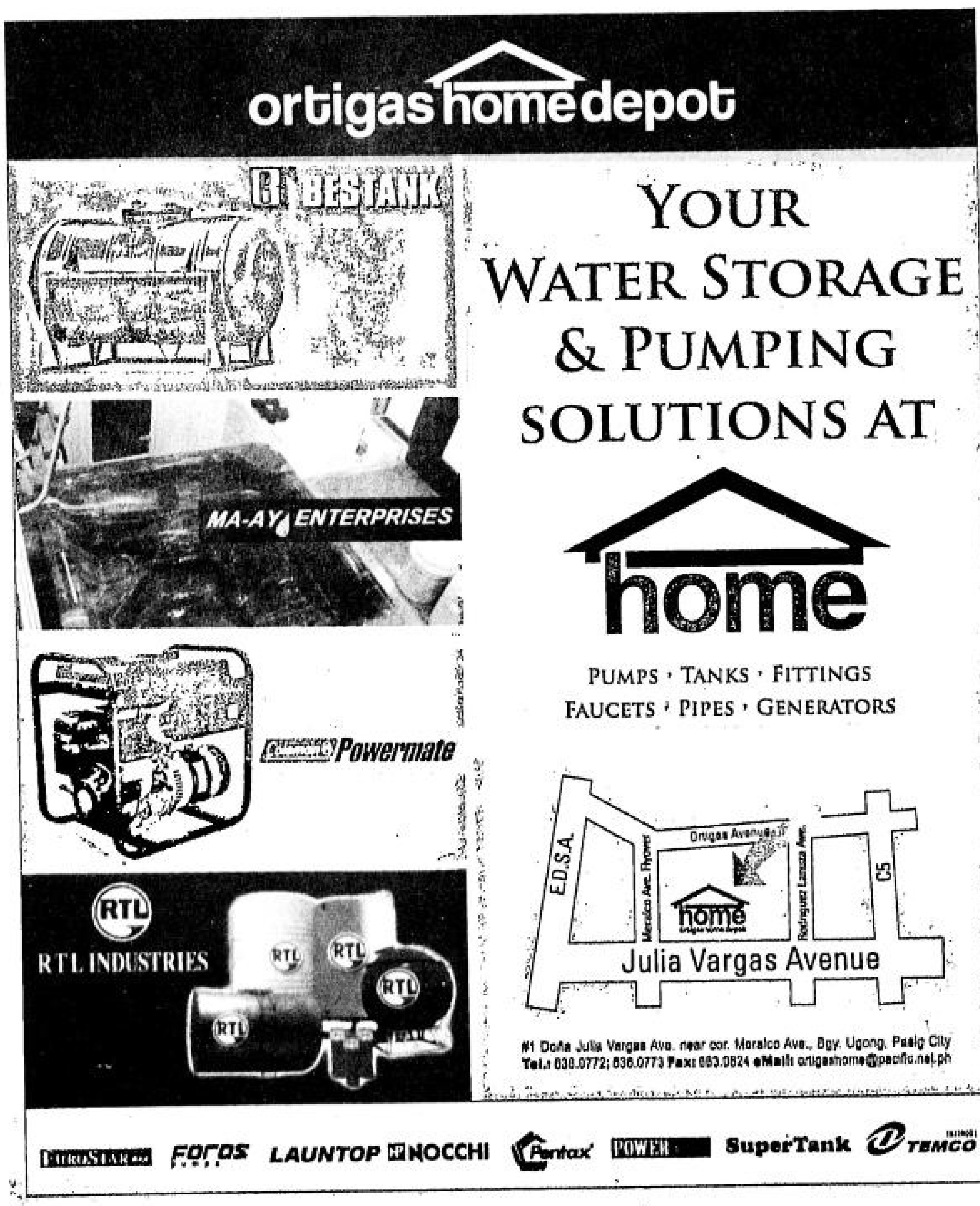
Premium utilities

Just like its other developments, the Courtyards of Portofino also offers premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community. Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round-the-clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

"The property management team is in-house," Noval explained. "It assures the buyers that the vision of Brittany is implemented. Because vision without implementation, how is that? We develop our own group to cater to the specific needs of each subdivision. We're very involved with maintaining the property."

With its lush landscapes, stylish yet functional homes, and the assurance that the integrity of the property will be respected, it would be difficult to find a more inspired space to come home to. Truly, the Courtyards of Portofino is about mastering the art of fine living.

Property previews may be arranged at 850-6986, 850-2868 or 850-3084.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MOST homeowners believe that as long as they do not see visible signs of mold, that is, patches of green, blue or black discoloration on surfaces, their environment is free of contamination. What they don't realize, however, is that large accumulations of [hidden or concealed] mold may be growing in areas that they cannot see, like air ducts, remote attic or basement spaces, or wall cavities. Left to multiply, these infestations may produce enough organic compounds to cause allergic reactions, sickness and, in extreme cases, death (a possibility with infants).

Warns US Government Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): "Most people are aware that outdoor air pollution can damage their health but may not know that indoor air pollution can also have significant effects. EPA studies indicate that indoor air levels of many pollutants may be 2-5 times, and in some occasions more than 100 times higher than outdoor levels. These high levels of indoor air pollutants are of particular concern because it is estimated that most people spend as much as 90 percent of their time indoors. In recent years, comparative risk studies performed by the EPA and its Science Advisory Board (SAB) have consistently ranked indoor air pollution among the top five environmental risks to public health."

Fortunately, indoor air quality can be greatly improved by the use of proper indoor air management systems, which trap and remove the pollutants that build up in the air. Goodsphere (Swiss designed technology) air revitalizing system is an all-in-one air purifier, air humidifier, air freshener (aroma therapy) and ionizer.

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Hot ink! Ilustradors ng Kabataan page F1

Hot! Hot! Hot! Super! Bikini Open issue page D6

Photography: VICTOR CONSUNJI
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The unreality of today's reality

We are surrounded by fakes, imitations, phoneys, copies and fabrications

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

KEEPING it real has never been such an Extra Challenge. We are riveted by man-woman dynamics via Blind Dates, gripped by Survivor tactics during an Amazing Race, and have given an Ambush Makeover to the English language by breathing life to the term Queer-Eye.

Six years ago, a program on Average Joes leading a Simple Life and desperately Playing It Straight as The Fab 5 show him ways of Starting Over would have been The Biggest Loser. Today, the reality genre has everyone hooked.

Local media have gotten into the game, trying to come up with their versions of what could create a new star, a new trend, a new you. I admit an addiction to American Idol, and can't stand the fact that being Asia-bound I can't vote! As I live vicariously through those who can carry a tune (unlike me), I do wonder what the impact is of real television on one's self esteem.

Staying real (and alive) is no easy feat. Faking it till you make it is the new battle cry of the TV generation. While our parents' generation was about making a stand, the 00s is all about making it to the next stage of The Apprentice, The Contender, etc.

People are willing to cheat, lie, steal, make complete morons of themselves for a little screen time. Getting your 15 minutes of fame has never been easier. As one PR mogul put it, as long as you can get in front of a press camera, you got your shot.

In the pursuit of glamour and stature, most are willing to be herded like a flock of sheep to be sheared of the very idiosyncrasies that make them authentic. Hair that was once free to frizz and curl at will is re-bonded to resemble road kill. Skin with natural pigmentation and a healthy glow is scrubbed and bleached to uncooked chicken pallor. Almost every VJ on display seems to have graduated from the "accent = talent" school of hosting.

We are surrounded by fakes. Imitations, phoneys, copies and fabrications. From accessories to lifestyles, we don't necessarily have to have the real thing as long as it can fool a captive audience for a while. A person with a keen eye and the hunting skills of a Strider can transform Greenhills into via Condotti.

Big deal, you say, everyone loves a bargain. Sure, but nobody loves a fake. Even if you're LV-armored, a poor attitude towards yourself and your fellow humans will eventually cause a couple of chinks.

If you're closest friend bases friendship on what's in your closet, then maybe you should shop for a new friend. Seriously, there's only ONE kind of friend, and class A, B or C still doesn't mean REAL.

Fixer-upper

You cannot walk three steps inside the hottest club without bumping (and bouncing off) a silicon-seduced chest (not necessarily belonging to a female). *Beso-beso* can now be done from great distances thanks to collagen-fattened lips. You may pass a series of expressionless Botoxed faces (smiling has never been so taboo) or suddenly notice that your date has a couple of bumpity-bumps on certain areas of her nose. (No, they're not zits.)

People of all ages and genders are so into quick fixes, and I'm not even talking recreational drugs.

This is not an article written to pass judgment. If you happen to be a savvy shopper and can walk through *tiangges* blindfolded and still come out with fashion treasures, then kudos to you. Just bear in mind that the clothes never ever make a person.

You may blind your peers with the latest, brightest bling, but they won't stay blind forever. The dullness of your spirit will (ironically) shine through. Plastic surgery (do you recall what was implied when a person was called plastic?) is a choice.

Just manage your expectations; a new body still has the same old heart beating inside. How are you trying to enhance cosmetically that part of yourself? If your self-esteem is directly proportional to the amount of body fat you possess, then you are in for some pretty tough times. Psychologist Carl Jung said, "If you don't learn to love your defects they will never go away."

Some of you may view this as a reality check. Can you remember the last time when all it took was YOU to affirm your authentic self? Does support for your endeavors only come from meeting standards dictated by your peers? Or do you make your own rules? If you remove the outer trappings that bind you, would you still feel good about yourself. If you told those around you what you really thought, would you get voted off the island? Who do you hang out with? Is it possible that you have grown weary of talking about the same people, the same parties, the same things over and over again?

Think about it. If the life you and your friends lead is truly fabulous, why would you have time to pay attention to those whose lives aren't?

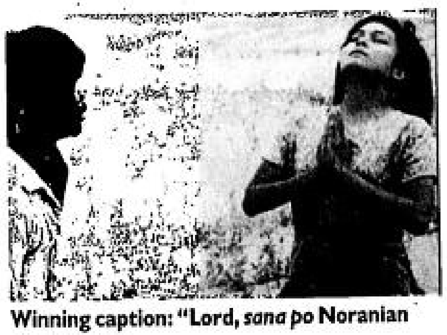
As the search for self is a continuous process, you can remember this: No matter how well staged your life seems to be, eventually, reality shows. Hope you win.

OH CAPTION, MY CAPTION!

From Ate Guy to Tita Glo

By Tals Diaz and Gino de la Paz

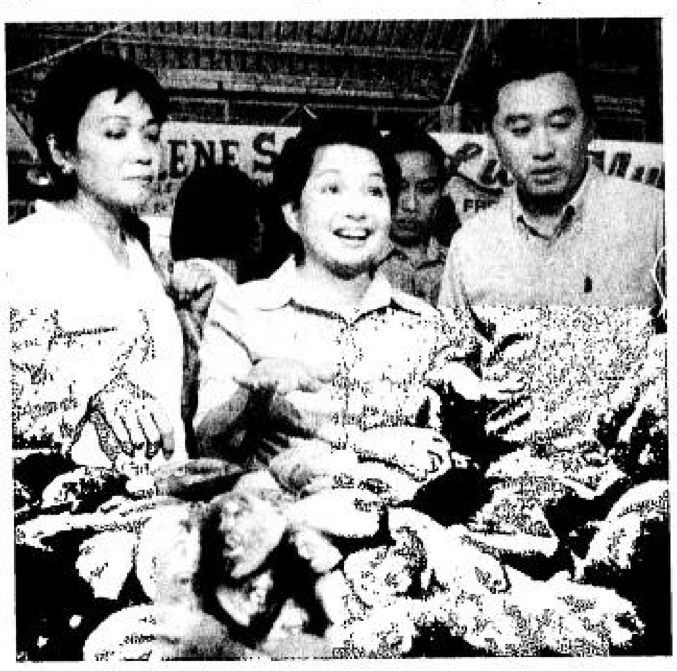
IT'S NO small *himala* that we weren't swamped with angry letters and death threats from die-hard Noranians who believe in Ate Guy's innocence. (Then again, there's this strange big box in the office without a return address that we refuse to touch. It's ticking as we speak .)



Winning caption: "Lord, *sana po* Noranian *ang* judge."

Sender: Orville Ocampo

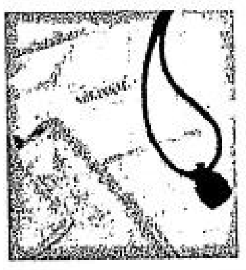
As we're guessing the Superstar is calling out to all the saints, angels and dead popes in Heaven and praying for rain/snow/anything that would make this damn heat go away, we'd like to call out to this week's caption king, Orville Ocampo. You just snagged a superfine Mikimoto pearl cell phone charm. Just between you and me, Mikimoto pearls are referred to as *handanama* or "flower pearls." *O-ha!* Call our Marketing Department at 8978808 for details on how to claim your prize.



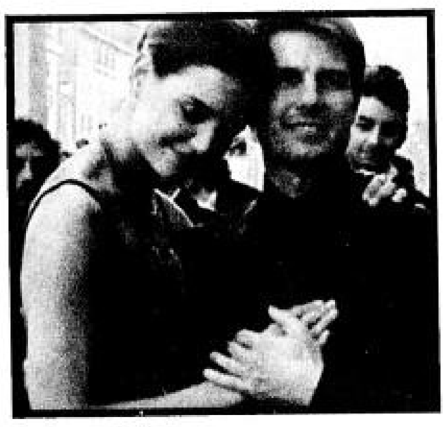
Super!'s caption: Stitch finds Nemo

This weeks' challenge

From one mole to another, here's President Macapagal-Arroyo following the advice of certain characters named James and Pepe who, for some reason, told her to do exactly this. Which we can't figure out because our normally quick-witted brains have melted like snowballs in hell because of the 42 degree heat. Which is where you come in. E-mail your captions to super@inquirer.com.ph or text inquirer sup name/age/city/caption and send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart). The best one wins another supercool freebie from our friends at Mikimoto. Don't let the heat get to you, okay? Till next week!



MIKIMOTO *MO* '*TO!* This week's Super! prizes



You say Tomatie, I say Katom... or is it Toka?

By Pepe Diokno

CAN YOU see it? The Dawson's Creek theme song plays (do do do do...), Joey climbs up a tree to this boy's room. She snuggles beside him, closes her eyes. She feels him fondling her ear. She giggles, and looks toward him and sees—a 42-year old man fondling her ear!

Oh holy Bora, Joey and Lestat are together! Katie Holmes, 26, and Tom Cruise, 42, are now... (cue drum roll) an item! Their publicists say it's true; they've been photographed in Rome lovey-dovey with each other.

So let's do the math. As Tom was getting his first shave, Katie was an egg. In his 20s, as he was putting his mouth in... well, she was eating Gerber. When he got married she was squeezing acne out of her face. Aaaaahh! It's a Hollywood match made in heaven.

But it's not like it's the first time we've seen these freaky match-ups. It's not as if this match-up is as weird as seeing GMA in a swimsuit. (Hmm...) With all the May-December pairs we see around us, Tom and Katie shouldn't really cause a stir.

So why is everyone freaked out by this relationship? First, she's taller than him (but then again, everyone is). Hey... it could be the fact that they both are (gasp) stars.

Human nature has gotten the best of us yet again. We have become enthralled with the attraction between famous peeps. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

Giant conspiracy

The whole Tomatie (or Katom, or To-Ka—whatever) issue isn't about the age gap. It isn't about throwing the image of a 15-year-old Katie out the window. People, it's a giant conspiracy called "Get them to watch First Daughter 2 AND the last Last Samurai!" (Both Katie and Tom have new movies coming out this year.)

You, by reading this, have become victims of this conspiracy. (*Dahil ikaw ay sikat, ikaw ay*... victim! Sorry.)

The following exercise will free you from the chains of American capitalist mind control.

1) Chant: They're only people... they're only people.

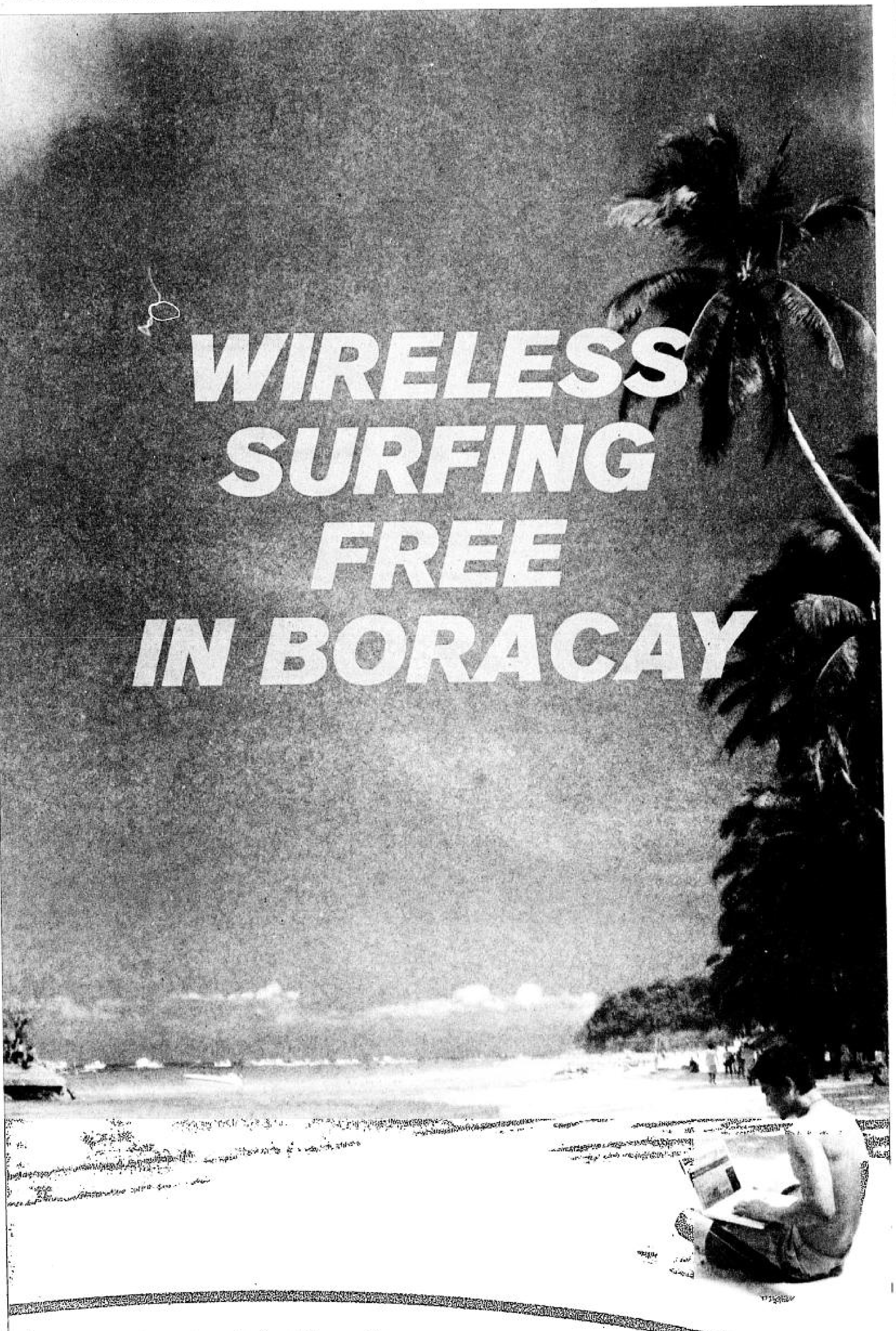
2) Imagine if you, at 17, did it with a sperm.

3) To stop yourself from caring about this, think: This is all a publicity stunt. The more you care, the more you fuel this whole thing. If Tom Cruise married her—she'd be Katie Cruise. Hey! Looks good on a marquee, doesn't it? They'd get her for every big movie that will be made. Movies shape young children's minds. Katie Holmes will control society. You don't want that, do you?

So that's the thing. I find solace in dreaming of a day when people switch their attention from celebs to the tarsiers. (Kaka the tarsier mates with Koko!) But for now, we'll have to brace ourselves for a slew of Pinoy copy cats: Eddie Garcia and the Ella Guevarra, one of The Hunks and some Star Circle Quest kid, Shaina Magdayao and Bentong! (Bad managers, bad.)

Now I know it may be hard to let go of your *artista* fascinations. But for the sake of our economy, please. The next time some celeb couple pops out on TV, say: "You cannot control my mind! (Gandalf-like:) You... shall... not... paaass!"

Amen.



From May to June, free wireless surfing is up in Boracay with Globelines Broadband. Chilling out at the beach now means downloading chill out music while you sit by the waves or watching a video stream of playoff highlights while you wiggle your toes in the sand. With Globelines Broadband, the country's favorite vacation spot is now one giant hotspot.

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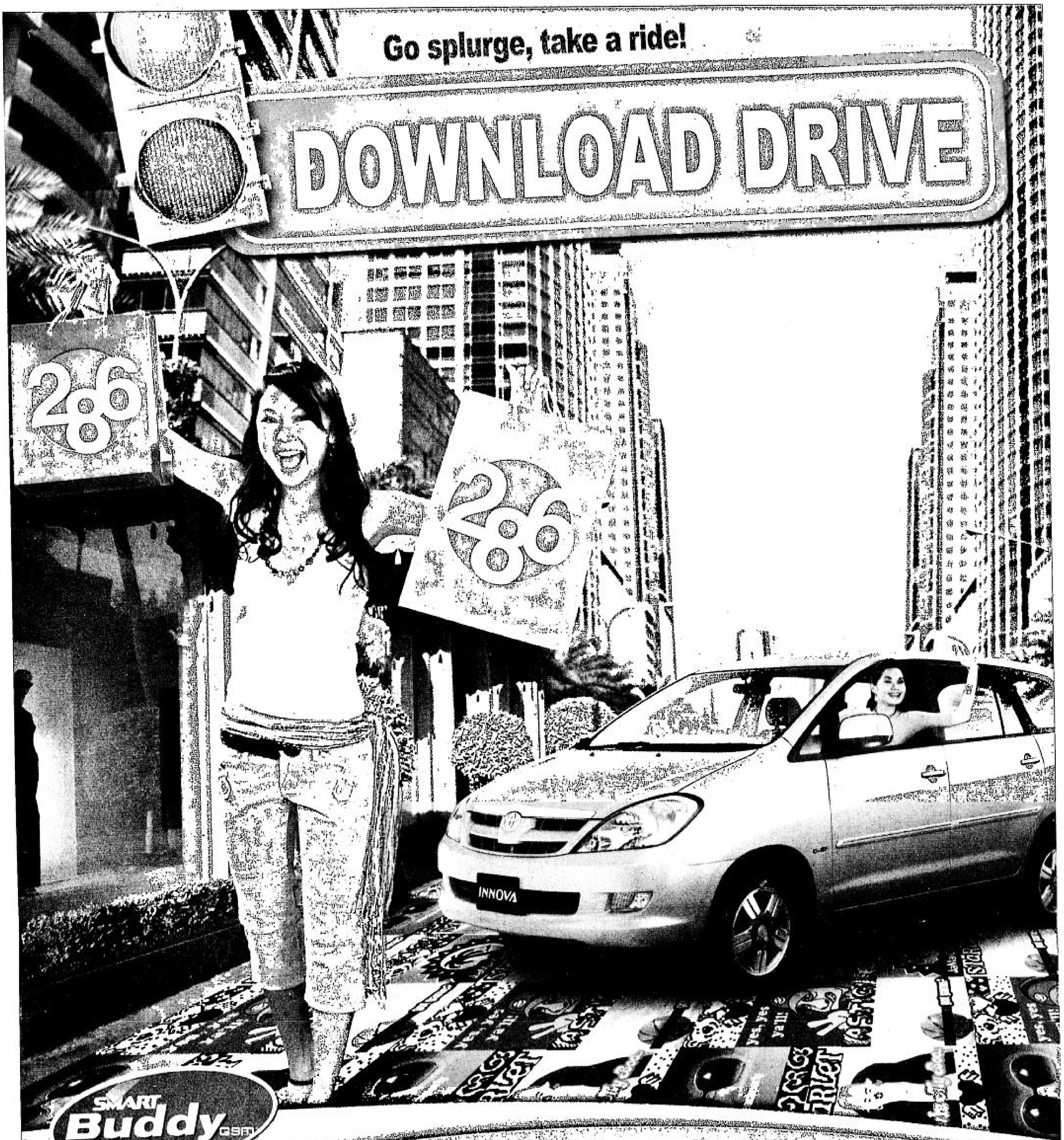

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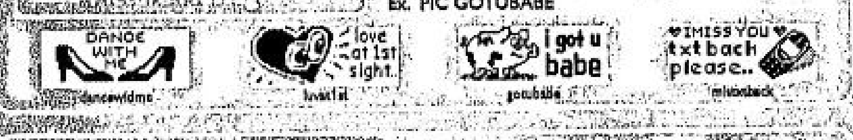
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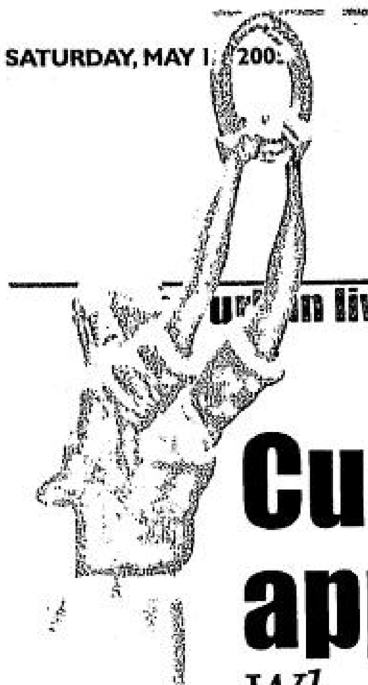


Cue the canned applause!

Who will win at the 2005 FAP Awards? Do you care?

No matter how much tonight's show might suck, there are deserving peeps on the nominees list

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

LIKE, how many times have you heard "award-giving bodies, award-giving bodies..." It's annoying. We're giving you a warning: This Saturday (hey, tonight!), you're bound to hear that phrase a lot.

That's if you even care to watch the FAP (Film Academy of the Philippines) awards at 9 tonight (airs on the greatest channel in the world... RPN9). That's if you don't care about the ceremony being as long as *Biag ni Lam-Ang*, or the MMFFP show ("Over 50 years of glorious Philippine movie magic"—that's looong). That's if you can stand the canned applause, the Belo-ed faces, and...

SPOILER-ALERT The press release says "stars will parade in their 50s-inspired fashion." Not for the faint of heart, but good for people who like to laugh at stars in 50s-inspired fashion.

If you can stand all that, this is what's waiting for you tonight on the red carpet: Celebs get dropped off on the red carpet in a BMW! The red carpet is covered with "a white cathedral-like ceiling" tent! Kuya Boy! Tim Yap! Jenni Epperson! Martin Nievera! (Hahaha)

And during the show itself: (this is a pooper) you won't see Lav Diaz's "Ebolusyon," or Jeffrey Jeturian's "Minsan Pa." But you will see a Ramona Diaz tribute—with clips from "Imelda" and Ramona's winning moments at Sundance. (Isn't it weird though, that FAP doesn't have a category for documentary? Smile, Ramona Diaz, smile!) And...

SPOILER ALERT "The stars... slowly gather around the pool area—to cheer for their fellow actor (sic—ooh, sic!) and actresses." And that's not all, "when the winner is announced, he will come from the ranks of his fellow actors by the pool area—and makes (another sic!) his victory walk," and there's fireworks!

But then, this article is about who should win tonight—take note—should win. Because no matter how much tonight's show might suck (though there is a chance it won't—you'll have to watch to see), there are deserving peeps on the nominees list. (Whoohoo.)

We're watching the show tonight because: one, we can get in; and two, we deserve to be killed if we care about the Oscars or the BAFTAS or whatever—and not care about this.

And the FAP Luna goes to...

Best Picture

"Panaghoy sa Suba"

Why? It's quiet yet effective. Plus it didn't get as much recognition as some people say it should have.

The real deal: So we get to see Sunshine Cruz and Juliana Palermo hug each other. (Showbiz! Showbiz!)

Best Director

Olivia Lamasan, "Milan"

Why? It's hard to put together great visuals, good acting and an okay story when you're shooting an entire film abroad with lots of pressure and limited time. Yipee!

The real deal: Because she shot in Milan, and kept herself from shopping like Claudine Barreto... Or Pioly.

Best Screenplay

Ricardo Lee, "Sabel"

Why? It's Ricky Lee.

The real deal: Juday plays a nun who gets raped, falls in love with the man who raped her, gets pregnant, disappears, then is suddenly in trial for murder and, while serving the Ibaloys in Benguet, falls in love with a lesbian doctor. Juday also has pumping scenes (yes, she becomes a plumber). Ricky Lee, Ricky Lee, you're the best!

Best Actor

Dennis Trillo, "Aishite Imasu 1941"

Why? People were shocked by his performance. He upstaged Juday, and did something only Dolphy and his kids can do better.

The real deal: Props for actually thinking you're voice is girl-like. It wasn't. Your acting saves it, though. Best Actor is you.

Best Actress

Claudine Barreto, "Milan"

Why? You know someone does good when she convinces you. Claud-Claud convinces you. Claud-Claud does good.

The real deal: Because Vilma's losing closet space—that's the only reason, actually.

Best Supporting Actor

Ronnie Lazaro, "Panaghoy sa Suba"

Why? The industry doesn't appreciate the guy. C'mon y'all. When you watch him, it's obvious that every line is thought over, and he looks at every piece of dialogue and tries to connect with the audience. Ergo, we announce the formation of the Ronnie Lazaro Academy of the Philippines. Yay.

The real deal: He deserves to win so he won't quit acting.

Best Supporting Actress

Jacklyn Jose, "Naglalayag"

Why? She always plays the mom role (remember her performance in "Tuhog"?) but she does it different every time. And she never fails to impress.

The real deal: She's nominated with Gloria Romero, Daria Ramirez, and Hilda Koronel—we need a winner who will inspire for another... two years, max.

Best Cinematographer

Yam Laranas, "Sigaw"

Why? He made the film freaky without any special effects. It was all cinematography and sound (which is why it should've been nominated for Best Sound). Lots of other filmmakers rely on digital blah to amaze...but no, Yam was all organic.

The real deal: *Wawa naman kasi si* Yam.

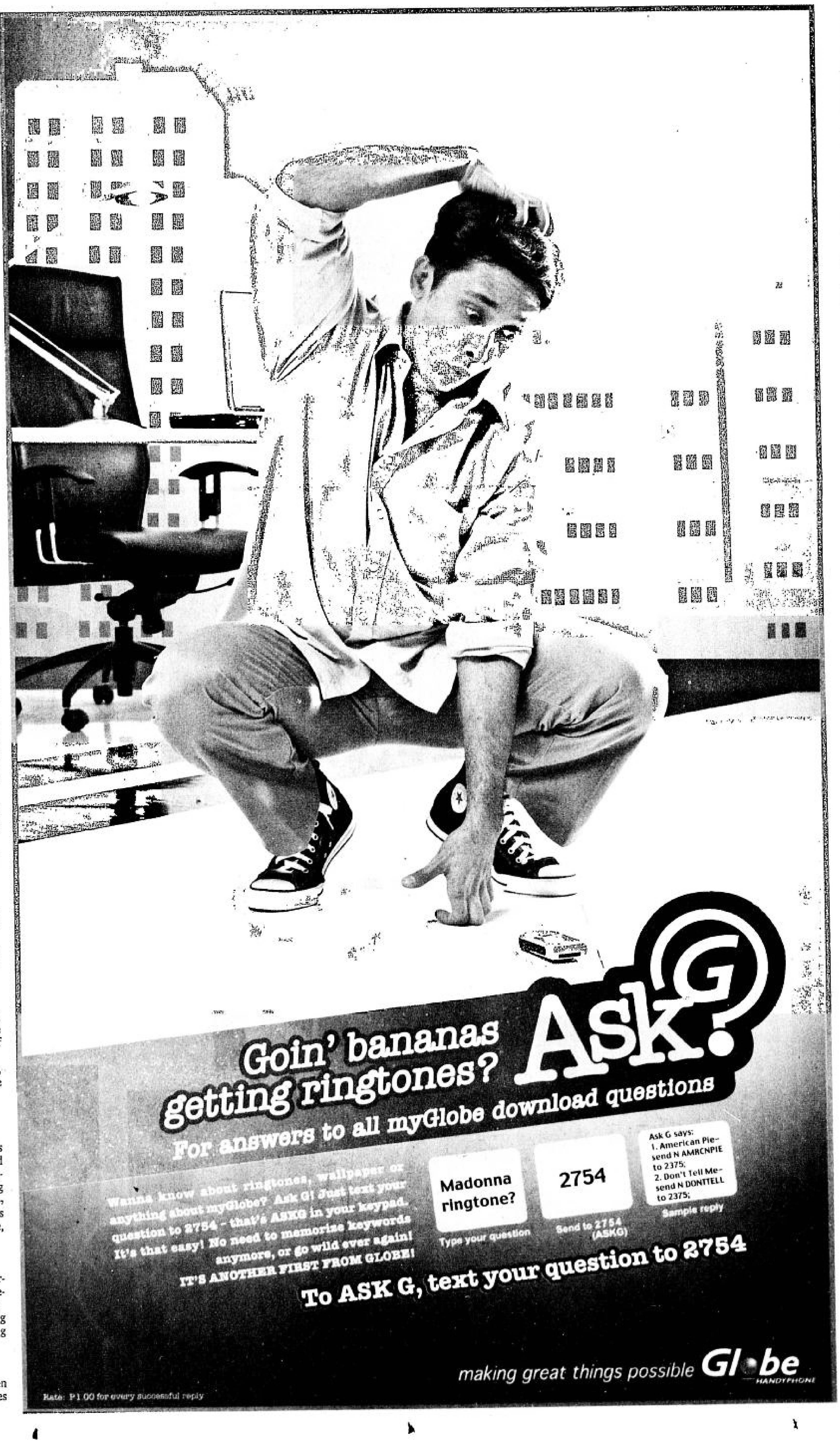
Best Production Design

Joey Luna, "Aishite Imasu 1941"

Why? The film's look was consistent. Thank you, Joey Luna. (By the way, did you know that the FAP Awards is also called the Luna Awards? Fact of the day!)

The real deal: Because people are always impressed with period productions done well.

TURN TO PAGE D3! TURN TO PAGE D3!



Goin' bananas getting ringtones? Ask G?

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IT'S ANOTHER FIRST FROM GLOBE!

Madonna ringtone?
Type your question

2754
Send to 2754 (ASKG)

Ask G says:
1. American Pie- send N AMRCNPIE to 2375;
2. Don't Tell Me- send N DONTTELL to 2375;
Sample reply

To ASK G, text your question to 2754

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

Rate: P1.00 for every successful reply

THE FACE, THE BODY. Pond's It girl, Kelly Misa, in Bora ramp mode

FRESHNESS PERSONIFIED. Nicole Hernandez makes you go *aaahhh...*

PERFECT MOMENTS. Angel Jacob is the perfect host for this Pond's event.

STEP 10. Laugh together—it's part and parcel of a healthy looking face.

A new revolution sweeps... your face

Tim Yap

IF THE Last Song Syndrome and the Dance Dance Revolution had a baby, it would surely be called the Pond's Face Revolution.

Why? Let me tell you. Cue music, please.

Step one

Arrive in Boracay, check in at Boracay Regency.

Step two

Attend the launch of the new Pond's commercial, a catchy and modern take on face cleansing.

Step three

Catch Bianca King, Marco Alcaraz, Camille Prats, Luis Alandy, Niña Corpuz and Nancy Castiglione dance their hearts away, imitating Aussie model Nadja Cross doing the Deep Clean Routine.

Step four

Admire the faces of Pond's girls Kelly Misa, Georgina Wilson and Nicole Hernandez, and say, "aaaahhh..."

Step five

Realize after the fashion show of Minx swimwear by Charina Sarte that the best accessory to a perfect body (and outfit) is a deeply cleansed beautiful face.

Step six

Do it yourself. The Forehead Swipe. Eye Orbiter. Cheek Sweep. Nose Lift. Square Lipped. Smiley Chin. La, la!

I swear it's really fun to do.

A booth was set up outside The Regency for beach bods to try it for themselves—and all of a sudden there was a long line! Even guys did it! Jenni Epperson and Rajo Laurel did it, too! Okay, I admit, I did it as well.

I guess it's the lure of being the next Pond's face that got the peeps to join, not to mention the fun in doing it. And they give you a free DVD of your performance! How's that for narcissism?

So love yourself, and dance your way to a chance to be among four lucky girls who will be featured in the next Pond's TV commercial! Just groove it, as the Face Revolution sweeps the country.

Okay, all together now.

THE FACE that will launch a thousand products. Georgina Wilson

BLOWING BUBBLY. Bubbles Paraiso in Bora

THE CHEEK SWEEP. Camille Prats' new workout routine

CROSS MY HEART. Nadja Cross taught us the Pond's Deep Clean Routine.

ROYAL CLEANLINESS. Bianca King will sweep you off your feet.

R&B CLEAN. Jay R with Mae Dichupa

PEOPLE'S FACES. Carla Alindahao and Philip Cu-Unjieng

POND'S PALS. Kat Cruz and Francis Flores

TIM YAP FOREVER

SMILEY CHIN. That's me with Pond's man Francis Flores.

C IS FOR CLEAN. And Camille Prats

AAA POND'S LISTERS. Albert Almendralejo with the Padilla sisters, Gem and Beck

THE FACE of Just Shop and Good Finds, Jenni Epperson

VA VA VOOM. Val Delos Santos, post show

DIREK DEEP CLEANSING. Carla Laus and Robby Carmona

THE NOSE LIFT. Rajo Laurel and Jenni Epperson

A PLUS. Jenni, with daughter Aryanna Epperson

24K SKIN. Kat Cruz of INQUIRER's Just Shop

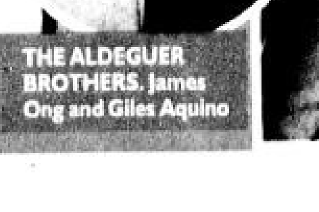
STAND TALL, STAND PROUD. Nicole Hernandez is tops in our list.

ICON REVOLUTION. Borgy Manotoc invites you to do the locomotion.

SEXY STYLIST. Charmaine Palermo is our Super! favorite.

MTV SCRUB. KC Montero and Miguel Santos

JIMMY FIRST. R&B's secret weapon, Jimmy Muna



THE ALDEGUER BROTHERS. James Ong and Giles Aquino

FACE TO FACE REVOLUTION. Pond's girls Nadja Cross and Angel Jacob

The day Albert Martinez gets abducted by giant pandas

What you'll see tonight at the FAP awards and how much better it'll be if pandas took over

O-ha!

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

WHEN Albert Martinez gets abducted by giant pandas, they're going to take over the show—Film Academy of the Panda! (It'll be a lot better fo' su'.)

Now, though the giant panda will copy Albert Martinez's program, watch out for the tweaks. (Use this as reference when you watch the show tonight.)

I. Overture
The Albert Martinez version (TAMV): Showcase of Filipino Films from the '50s
The Panda version (TPV): The OC Season 2 Soundtrack

II. Opening number
TAMV: A Martin Nievera song and dance medley
TPV: A Pops Fernandez song and dance medley

III. Opening spiel
TAMV: Martin talks about the golden eras of Philippine Cinema, highlighting the glamour of yesteryears.
TPV: A member of the audience screams, "What does he know?"

IV. Best Sound and Best Musical Score
TAMV: Albert wants to have two celebs who can play instruments announce the winner on stage.
TPV: The Panda wants to have the Mano Po 3 theme song played over and over before announcing the winner.

V. Best Supporting Actor
TAMV: Winners are presented with statues—that's it.
TPV: Winners are presented with bamboo shoots—that's it.

VI. Best Editing and Production Design
TAMV: All the nominees sit around a table—so when the winner is called, he can celebrate with his peers.
TPV: All the nominees sit around a table—so when the winner is called, the others can kill him.

VII. Lifetime Achievement Award
TAMV: Clips of the awardee's achievements are flashed on screen.
TPV: The awardee flashes on screen. (Lifetime Achievement Awardees Gone Wild!)

VIII. Best Supporting Actress
TAMV: Same as Best Supporting Actor.
TPV: Same as Lifetime Achievement Award.

IX. Best Screenplay
TAMV: Videos of actual screenplay drafts and their writers dissolve into the actual scene on film.
TPV: Well, it's pretty hard to top that... so the Panda's gonna get Pops Fernandez to render the scripts into song—and dance!

X. Best Director
TAMV: Videos of the directors during the actual shoot and post prod are shown.
TPV: Videos of the directors screaming and throwing things around are shown. [illegible] Anne Curtis—[illegible]?

XI. Parade of Stars
TAMV: The stars gather around the pool area and cheer.
TPV: Animals parade and gather around the pool to cheer. (Wait, same thing.)

XII. Best Actor and Best Actress
TAMV: The actors' giant portraits are shown on stage and, when the winners are called, they come from the pool.
TPV: The actors are all put on a helicopter and, when the winners are called, they jump off. (RPN9, watch out—this will beat Extra Challenge!)

XIII. Preparation for fireworks
TAMV: The hosts, with all the stars, await the fireworks.
TPV: The hosts, with all the stars, become the fireworks.

XIV. Best Picture
TAMV: The winning movie is announced, the producer rejoices, the director shrieks, the actors *beso-beso*.
TPV: The winning movie is shown... twice.

XV: Closing spiel and fireworks
TAMV: You know, the usual. Ogie Alcasid pops out, gives the go-signal for the fireworks, and everyone "with wines on hand (from press release)" toast the winners of the FAP 2006!
TPV: You know, the usual. Pops pops out (again), gives the go-signal for the Sex Bomb Dancers to come out, and with "wines on hand," everybody gets drunk and makes out.

Whoo... whoo can help you download wallpaper? Ask G?

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Star Wars wallpaper?
Type your question

2754
Send to 2754 (ASKG)

Ask G says: Subscribe to weekly Star Wars wallpaper. Send FORCE to 2949;
Sample reply

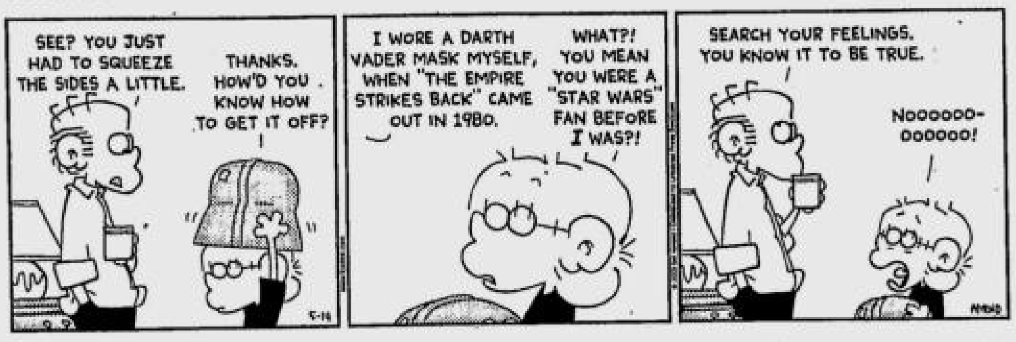
To ASK G, text your question to 2754

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

Rate: P1.00 for every successful reply

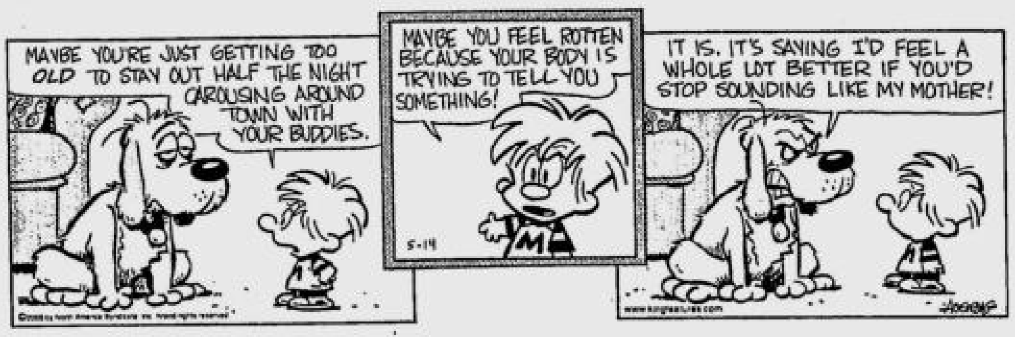
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


SEE? YOU JUST HAD TO SQUEEZE THE SIDES A LITTLE.
THANKS. HOW'D YOU KNOW HOW TO GET IT OFF?
I WORE A DARTH VADER MASK MYSELF, WHEN "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" CAME OUT IN 1980.
WHAT?! YOU MEAN YOU WERE A "STAR WARS" FAN BEFORE I WAS?!
SEARCH YOUR FEELINGS. YOU KNOW IT TO BE TRUE.
NOOOOOO-OOOOOO!
5-14

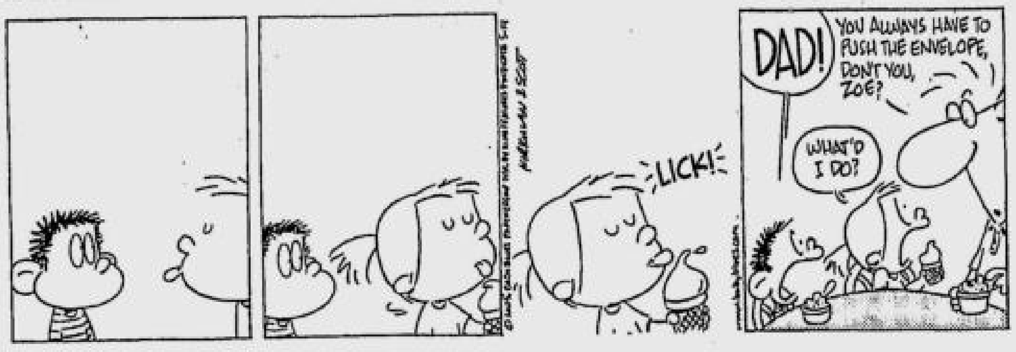
MARVIN

BY.TOM ARMSTRONG


MAYBE YOU'RE JUST GETTING TOO OLD TO STAY OUT HALF THE NIGHT CAROUSING AROUND TOWN WITH YOUR BUDDIES.
MAYBE YOU FEEL ROTTEN BECAUSE YOUR BODY IS TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
5-14
IT IS. IT'S SAYING I'D FEEL A WHOLE LOT BETTER IF YOU'D STOP SOUNDING LIKE MY MOTHER!
www.kingfeatures.com

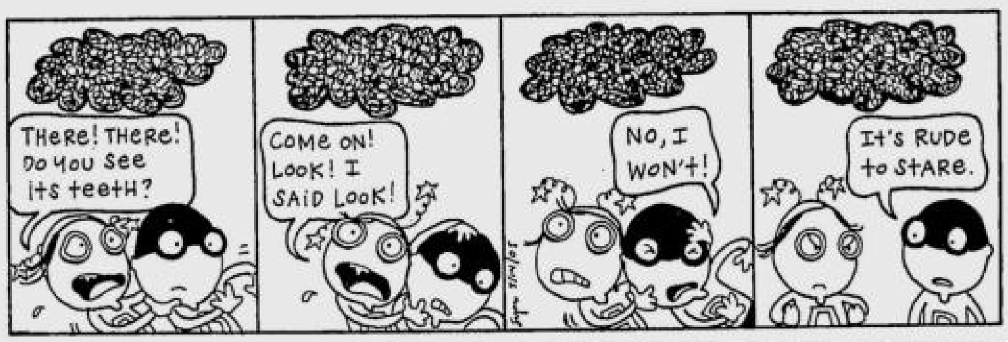
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LICK!
DAD!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO PUSH THE ENVELOPE, DON'T YOU, ZOE?
WHAT'D I DO?

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


There! There! Do you see its teeth?
Come on! Look! I SAID Look!
No, I won't!
It's Rude to stare.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very energetic. You set high goals for yourself—in part, because you're a perfectionist. You're modern, up-to-date and very current with technology. You're often ahead of your time. You're not afraid to break with tradition. This year could be one of the best years of your life. Expect good fortune and opportunities. Birthdate of: Cate Blanchett, actress; Bobby Darin, vocalist; Tim Roth, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day for romance, love affairs, parties, vacations and all kinds of creative activities. You want to have fun! You want to enjoy yourself. (Good! Joy is a wonderful thing to spread as far as possible.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to entertain at home. Invite the gang over. Socialize with relatives. (But only do this if you really like them.) The bottom line is: Enjoy yourself!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for business and commerce. Conversations with others are friendly and smooth. Business connected with the entertainment world or professional sports is favored.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your social skills are turned on today. All dealings with friends, groups, clubs and organizations can be successful. People feel friendly—and so do you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The Moon is in your sign today making wonderful aspects to Venus and Jupiter. What more do you want? Pleasant advantages and exchanges with others will pepper your day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Recently, you have felt restless because you want change in your life. You want to learn something new and exciting. Today however, is a good day to rest and just let things be. (Yup.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend might give you a gift today or do a favor for you. Welcome any chance to socialize. (You'll have an opportunity to confide in someone.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be on your best behavior today. People notice you. It's easy to make a good impression now because you feel confident and sure of yourself.

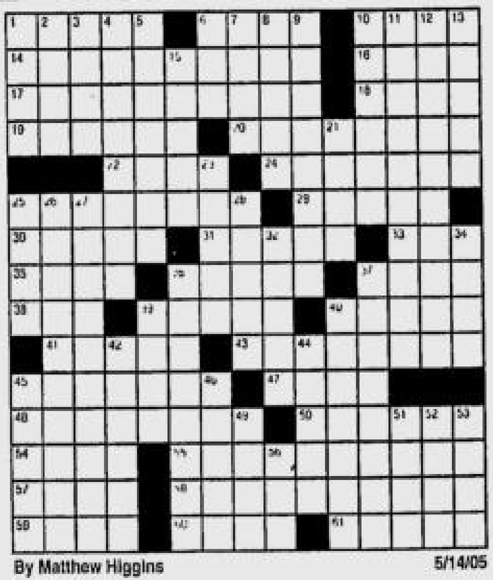
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a lovely day for your sign. You feel very at home with this Leo Moon; plus it's making lovely aspects to Jupiter and Venus. It's a good day for education, publishing and the media—also good for travel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The resources of others can help you today. People might lend you things or let you use what they own. Sweet!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel quite attracted to someone today. This could be romantic; this could be platonic. Either way, enjoy fun times with others!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Cooperation from co-workers comes easily today. Keep this good energy flowing by being friendly yourself. What goes around comes around. (Enthusiasm is a contagious thing—fortunately!)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

5/14/05

ACROSS

1 Confronted
6 Covenant
10 Cotton of poor quality
14 Realistic
16 Off-the-wall remark?
17 Adenauer or Bismarck
18 Fret and fuss
19 More succinct
20 Of two adjoining continents
22 Prong of a pitchfork
24 Abilities
25 Funeral group
29 Heat in Madrid
30 Condor's digs
31 Uses a washcloth
33 Impertinence
35 Mane man?
36 Sots
37 __ Rivera, CA
38 Sothern or Beattie
39 Fox hunters' jackets
40 Old Nick
41 Besmirch
43 In a composed manner
45 Performed in a careless way
47 Get one's goat
48 Major bishops
50 Bullock or Haynie
54 Be on board
55 Earmarked amount
57 Assist a lawbreaker
58 Marvel
59 Cravings
60 Team
61 Tussle

DOWN

1 Real occurrence
2 Aspirin's target
3 Cleaning woman in London
4 Element 99 honoree
5 Hoodwink
6 Man's best friend?
7 Competent
8 Influence
9 Urban porches
10 German astronomer
11 Green variety of amphibole
12 Extravagantly histrionic
13 Hamlets
15 Sci-fi writer Jules
21 '__, poor Yorick'
23 Field Marshal Rommel
25 Festive
26 Engrave again
27 Medieval torture device
28 Submerges
32 Baffling question
34 Polo player's mount
36 Surveillance devices
37 Inventor with protection
39 Hemingway's sobriquet
40 Obeisant bows
42 Old-fashioned word for ants
44 Dance music
45 Spindrift
46 New __, India
49 Huskies' burden
51 Exertion
52 Underground growth
53 A.D. word
56 Ace, when not eleven

Friday's Puzzle Solved

D	R	A	G	S		A	R	G	O	T		F	L	A
S	A	R	A	H		L	E	A	S	E		O	I	L
T	H	E	G	O	O	D	D	I	E	Y	O	U	N	G
				O	D	E	O	N			O	L	E	O
S	H	A	D	I	E	R			A	P	P	E	A	R
L	A	G	U	N	A		P	H	I	L		D	R	E
I	T	E	M			S	E	A	L	E	D			
T	H	E	B	A	D	N	E	W	S	B	E	A	R	S
			O	N	I	O	N	S			B	L	U	E
M	A	C		N	A	B	S		C	H	A	I	S	E
U	N	R	E	A	L			S	H	O	R	T	E	D
S	T	U	D			H	E	L	I	C				
T	H	E	U	G	L	Y	D	U	C	K	L	I	N	G
B	E	T		H	E	A	I	R		E	E	R	I	E
E	M	S		R	A	N	T	S		D	E	A	L	T

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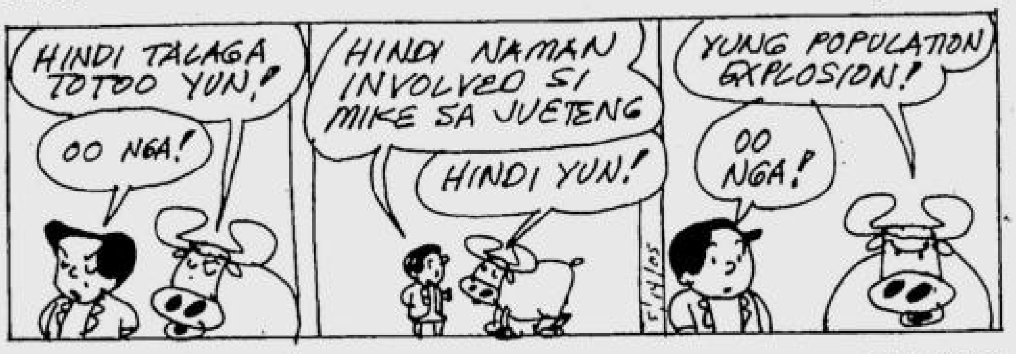
5/14/05

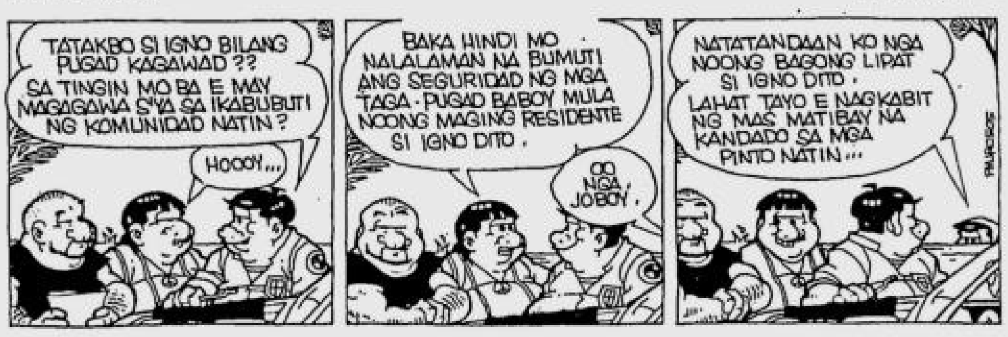
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDI TALAGA TOTOO YUN!
OO NGA!
HINDI NAMAN INVOLVED SI MIKE SA JUETENG
HINDI YUN!
YUNG POPULATION EXPLOSION!
OO NGA!

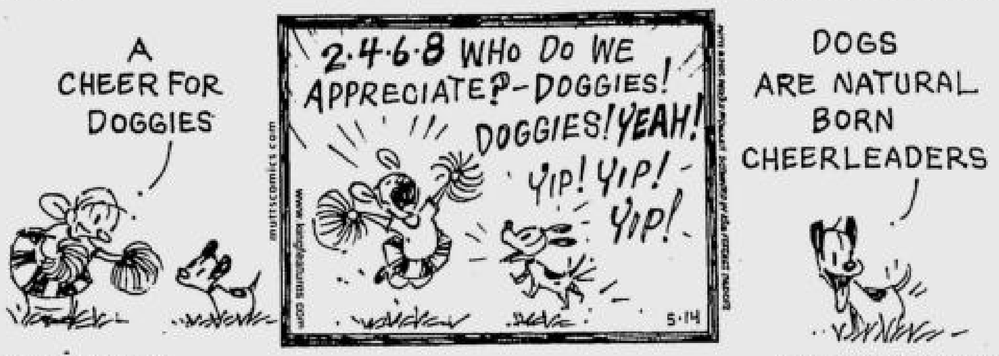
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TATAKBO SI IGNO BILANG PUGAD KAGAWAD ?? SA TINGIN MO BA E MAY MAGAGAWA S'YA SA IKABUBUTI NG KOMUNIDAD NATIN ?
HOOOY...
BAKA HINDI MO NALALAMAN NA BUMUTI ANG SEGURIDAD NG MGA TAGA-PUGAD BABOY MULA NOONG MAGING RESIDENTE SI IGNO DITO.
OO NGA, JOBOY.
NATATANDAAN KO NGA NOONG BAGONG LIPAT SI IGNO DITO. LAHAT TAYO E NAGKABIT NG MAS MATIBAY NA KANDADO SA MGA PINTO NATIN...

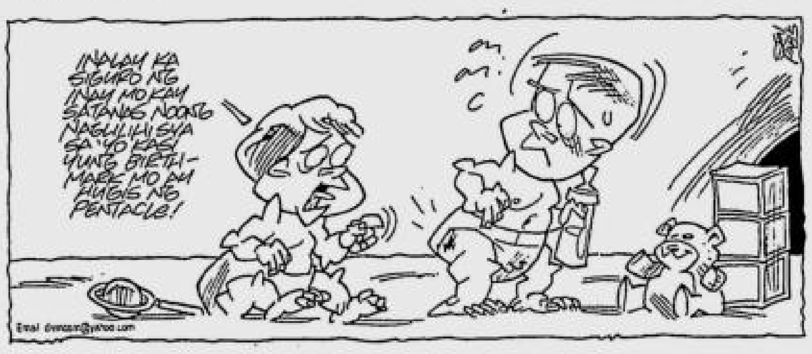
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A CHEER FOR DOGGIES
2·4·6·8 WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?-DOGGIES! DOGGIES! YEAH!
YIP! YIP! YIP!
muttscomics.com
5·14
DOGS ARE NATURAL BORN CHEERLEADERS

DIVINE COMEDY

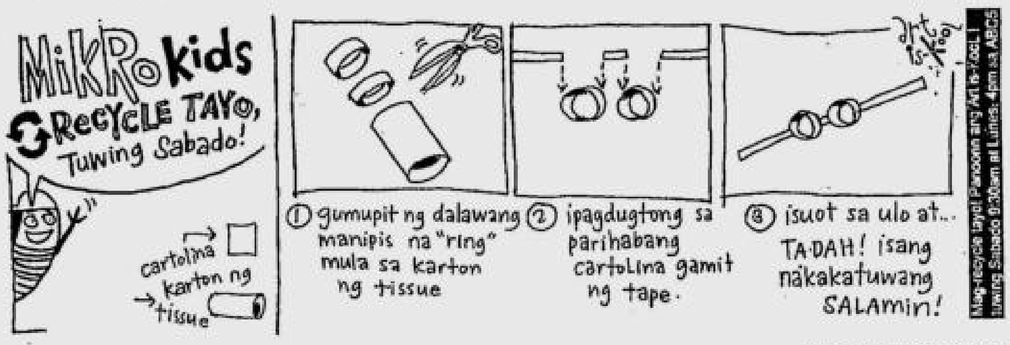
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


INALAY KA SIGURO NG INAY MO KAY SATANAS NOONG NAGULIHI SHA SA 'YO KASI YUNG BIRTH-MARK MO AY HUGIS NG PENTACLE!

BABY ROBERT LANGDON

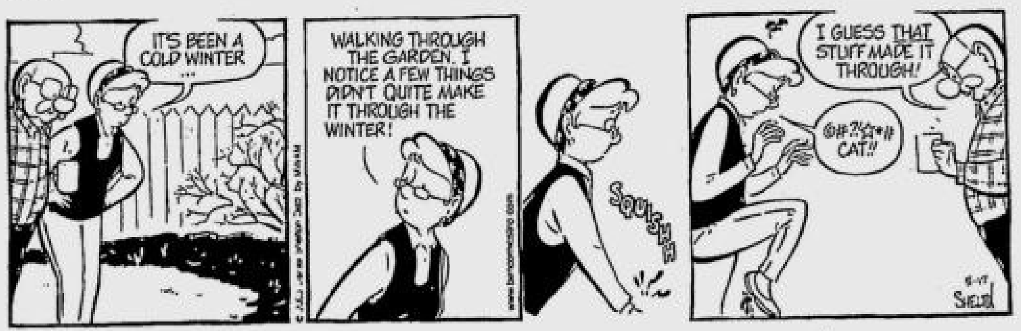
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
cartolina
karton ng tissue
① gumupit ng dalawang manipis na "ring" mula sa karton ng tissue
② ipagdugtong sa parihabang cartolina gamit ng tape.
③ isuot sa ulo at.. TA-DAH! isang nakakatuwang SALAMIN!

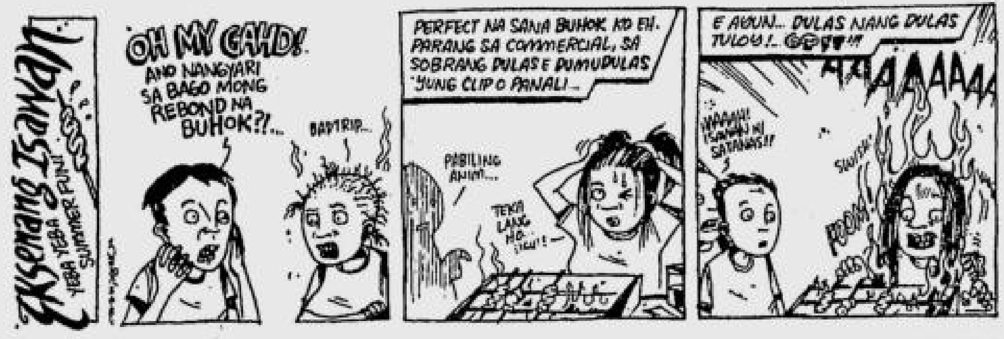
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IT'S BEEN A COLD WINTER ...
WALKING THROUGH THE GARDEN, I NOTICE A FEW THINGS DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT THROUGH THE WINTER!
SQUISH
I GUESS THAT STUFF MADE IT THROUGH!
@#?!$*#! CAT!!

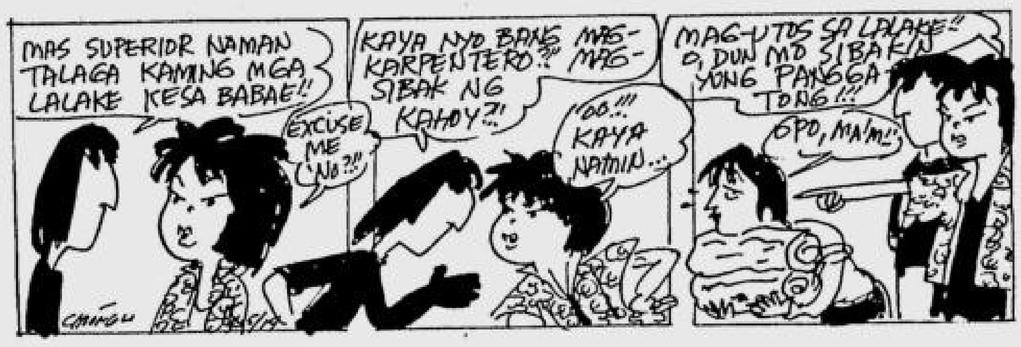
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Kwentong Bakasyon
YEBA YEBA SUMMER FUN!
OH MY GAHD! ANO NANGYARI SA BAGO MONG REBOND NA BUHOK?!..
BADTRIP..
PERFECT NA SANA BUHOK KO EH. PARANG SA COMMERCIAL, SA SOBRANG DULAS E DUMUDULAS 'YUNG CLIP O PANALI..
PABILING ANIM...
TEKA LANG PO..
E AYUN.. DULAS NANG DULAS TULOY!..
AAAAAAA
WAAAH! ISANG NI SATANAS!!

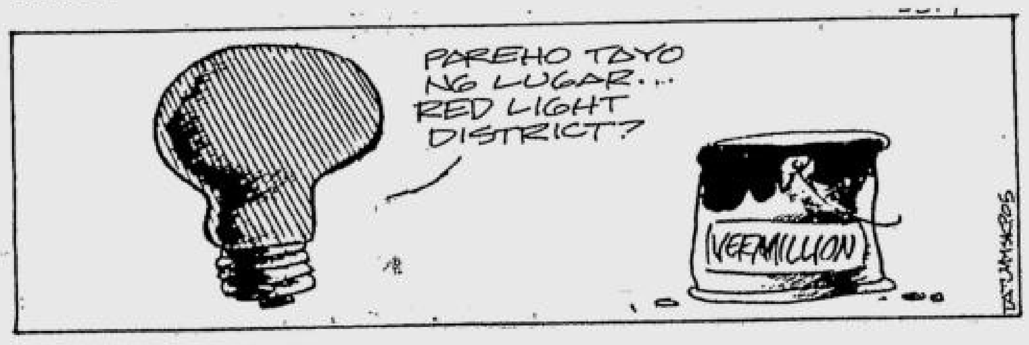
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAS SUPERIOR NAMAN TALAGA KAMING MGA LALAKE KESA BABAE!!
EXCUSE ME 'NO?!!
KAYA NYO BANG MAG-KARPENTERO?!! MAG-SIBAK NG KAHOY?!..
OO!!! KAYA NAMIN...
MAG-UTOS SA LALAKE!! O, DUN MO SIBAKIN YUNG PANGGATONG!!!
OPO, MA'M!!

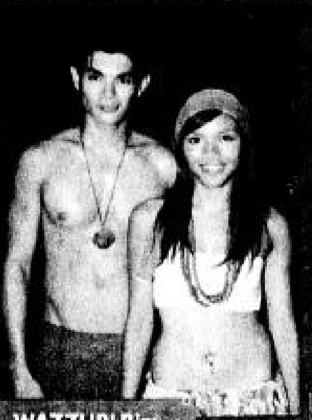
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO TAYO NG LUGAR... RED LIGHT DISTRICT?
VERMILLION

THE MUSIC MAN. Nathan Azarcon, in tune with the vibe

WE'RE JAMMIN'. Bamboo Manalac and Ira Cruz



WAZZUP! Bim Cecilio and Niña Dolino

WINNERS ALL. SWU's Marites Natad and Florian Gutierrez, with coach Mechell Matuguina, Jonrey Sasing, Joseph Alguno and Julett Mae Marikit

NESTEA PLEASE? Edd Fuentes and Rissa Samson

Iced, iced, tea, *uhm*, tea!

By Tim Yap

I DIDN'T take the plunge.

How could I, in the sweltering heat of the Bora sun? I did, however, catch the most beautiful sunsets while sipping my Nestea iced tea as a prelude to all the action that was gonna explode this side of our islands.

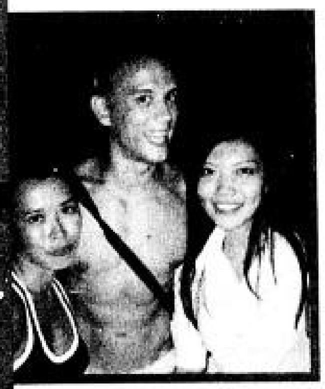
It was celebration time for all the teams that served, tossed and spiked that ball for the 2005 Nestea Beach Volleyball tourney. This year's competitions saw Janley Patrona and Arnold Laniog of the College of St. Benilde reign supreme in the men's division, and Florian Gutierrez and Maritess Natad of Southwestern University secure a third straight women's crown.

To match all that adrenaline from sporting all day, Nestea spiked the night with a head-banging performance by Bamboo at Boracay D'Mall's beachfront. Manolet Dario took the reins after him by spinning at Hey Jude! beachfront all night till morning. I also spotted quite a few dudes spiking some other shots by the bar.

A fire show by the Boracay Dragons and a fashion show served as precursor to the climax—a *halo-halo* summer spectacle as only Nestea can deliver.

After all that, how can you not say, "Nestea, please?"

HOW LUCKY! Lucky Manzano and pal Maurice Arcache



DOUBLE A. Geoff Rodriguez, with Ana Angara and Ana Kalaw

HEY JUDE! Here with Roan and Jing

BOHEMIAN RHAPSO-TEA. Ronald Pasion, Epi and Ronnie Quizon

ICED CANDY. Tisha Silang and Christopher Darmstadter

Dog-tired searching for ringbacks? Ask G?

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2754
Send to 2754 (ASKG)

Ask G says:
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2. Crazy In Love-text N CRAZYINLUV to 2375;
Sample reply

To ASK G, text your question to 2754

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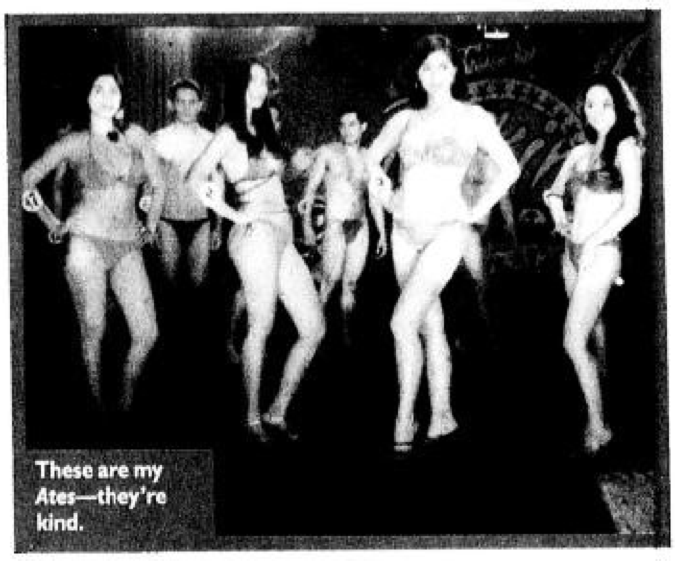
Rate: P1.00 for every [illegible] reply

Is that a wrap na po, Kuya Direk?



These are my *Ates*—they're kind.

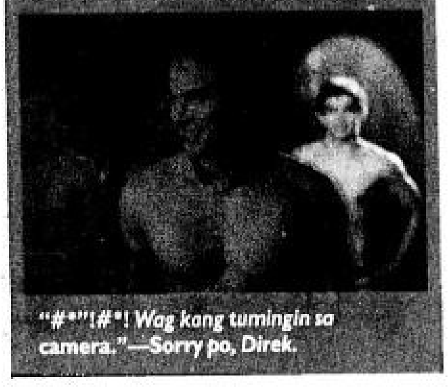
That's me at *Kuya* Alfred's back. *Direk*, the spotlight's so illumined *naman*.

ALERT! JEFFREY JETURIAN'S BIKINI OPEN!

Super! Mocku-letter of the week

This one comes from a male Bikini Open starlet

This is Yeye, my sistah—*ganda niya, noh?*



"#*"!#*! *Wag kang tumingin sa camera.*"—Sorry po, Direk.

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

HELLO *po*! To all you readers *po* and televiewers *po* out there, Kuya Germs, Kuya Boy, plug *lang* me my latest movie *po*, "Bikini Open" *po*! Thank you *po*, fans. I *labshu*!

Hi to Robbie Tan, the producer! Hi to *Ate* Jimboy (not his real name) for my stylist! Hi to *Direk* of course. And last but least, my Seiko family! *Kamusta kayo diyan, mga* friends! Always remember *po*, "When it's Seiko, it must be bold! *Po*!"

Back to the movie, I'm very pleased with it *po*. *Direk* Jeffrey says my performance is good *po* ("*Tho*, nincompoop *ka*!"). And proud *po* me of this labor of love *po*. It's hard *rin po* to be hours in your bikini at 5 o'clock at night *po* and it's so hard to be relaxed *po* when there's a lot of *Manongs* and *Manangs* in the set *po*. They keep looking at my tralala *po*.

In truth *po*, I was quite hesistant *po* in accepting the role. *Pero*, I read the script of *Kuya* Chris Martinez and it was hilarious, you know? Plus *may* meaning *po*. There are issues *po* that Kuya Chris talks about like… bikini *po* …and open *po*. But let me tell you about the movie *muna po*.

All of the labors was worth it *po* because the film *po* is quality *naman po*. It's about a Bikini Open *po*. There's a reporter, *si Ate* Cherry Pie, *na sobrang* sweet as in *matamis talaga* in person. *Ate* Cherry *po* in the movie has a show *po* and tries to get ratings *po* by making *hubad* the lives of the other characters *po*.

Then there's the models like *Ate* Diana, *Ate* Francine and *Kuya* Rafael who undergone *po* the rigors and trials and corruption and graft of Bikini Opens *po*.

Direk said it's a "mockumentary" *po* (*Tama ba, Direk*?). I do not know *po* what it means *po* but it's a common sense *daw*. So stop asking me *po* what it means.

You can see me *po* in this movie of mine starting May 18 in an SM near you *po*. If you look closely *po* at the pictures above, below and beyond, you will find me *po*. *Kitakits po*!

Sa mga producers, ready *na po* me for my next film!

Caring and sharing,

Dao Ming Zoo

You can text DAO space YOUR NAME space FAVE PERFUME space WHAT IS CRUSH? space WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO THE OWNER OF THIS AUTOGRAPH BOOK? and send to 09XX-9086964.

What's my motivation to become a cameraman, Direk?

Close *po kami ni Ate* Cherry Pie—I'm at her back… all the time.

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Kevyn Lettau
Memories of Love
Together with prolific songwriter and vocalist
Lou Pardini
What Might Have Been
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I'll Always Be There
The voice behind the classics of SERGIO MENDES
Joe Pizzulo
Take This Love
Never Gonna Let You Go
What Do We Mean To Each Other
Let's Give A Little More This Time
May 14, Saturday
8 pm, Araneta Coliseum
Sun Life Financial
INQUIRER LIFESTYLE
WAVE 89.1 923 JOEY RX93.1 96.3 WRocK
For ticket inquiries and reservations, call Ticketnet at 9115555

SLIMMEST WORLD. Bikini body winners John Daryl Rose and Charmagne de Guzman

UTOL KONG WINNER: Riza Padilla, sister of Robin at the Subic Bay Boardwalk

From reel to real bikini bodies

SLIMMER'S World international has just crowned this year's sexiest bodies to ever wear a bikini in the competition Bikini Bodies 2005. With the sunset of the Subic Bay boardwalk as backdrop, all 26 candidates paraded their tanned and toned bodies creating a big uproar all over the bay. Second runners up were Isabel Oteyza and Von Mariano. First runners up were Olivia Woods and Miguel Valenzuela. This year's sexiest bikini candidates were Charmagne de Guzman and John Daryl Rose.

MTV rocks Cebu today

MTV IS hosting the concert to beat this summer, with today's MTV Hits Cebu at the SM City Cebu parking lot.

Performers include Rivermaya, Parokya ni Edgar, Sugarfree, Kitchie Nadal, and Kjwan, with Cebu's own Junior Kilat, and Urbandub. MTV VJs KC Montero, Marc Abaya, Cindy Kurleto, Mariel Rodriguez, Maike Evers, and John Joe Joseph are hosts.

The event will also feature an amateur band showdown. Six Cebu-based bands will compete for P50,000 and an all-expense paid trip to Manila for a special MTV weekend. The winning band will guest in different shows of MTV Philippines.

Various booths, games, and activities will also be featured. Gates open at 3 p.m. To get tickets you can:

1) Until tonight, download and subscribe to MTV tones and images. For a list of available downloads text MTV to 688.

2) Vote for the first Filipino Motoalert artist in Motorola's *boto moto* promo or show your Motorola phone at the entrance to get in for free. Visit www.hellomoto.com for details.

3) Be a FRENZY Circle member by logging on to www.frenzy.com.ph.

4) Buy a Pepsi or Tropicana Twister at the Pepsi booth near the entrance today.

Call 8899251 in Manila, or 2340048/58 in Cebu. Check out posters and print ads for more details, or tune in to MTV Philippines.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 in Manila for free TV or non-cable subscribers, Sky Cable and Home Cable Subscribers. MTV is also available in Metro Cebu and Davao on Channel 29 for free TV or non-cable subscribers.

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Nicola Santiago
When it's hot I: Get cranky.
Who makes me sweat: My dad!
It's so hot I want to: Lock up myself in the fridge.
E-mail: nixsantiago@yahoo.com

Nikolo Juban
When it's hot: My nose bleeds!
Who makes me sweat: My math teachers.
It's so hot I want to: Go to wimpols in Star City.
E-mail: nikolojuban@hotmail.com

Reia Tan
When it's hot I: wear lots of WHITES
Who makes me sweat: Definitely my parents
It's so hot I want to: Jump in the pool
E-mail: ria_suzette@yahoo.com

Jeric Lacson
When it's hot I: Sweat like everyone else
Who makes me sweat: My dad especially when he's pissed
It's so hot I want to: Go to the beach and swim
E-mail: jeclacson@yahoo.com

Sheilla Ng
When it's hot I: Drop it! haha!
Who makes me sweat: Brad Pitt
It's so hot I want to: Feast on ice cream!
E-mail: sheillang@yahoo.com

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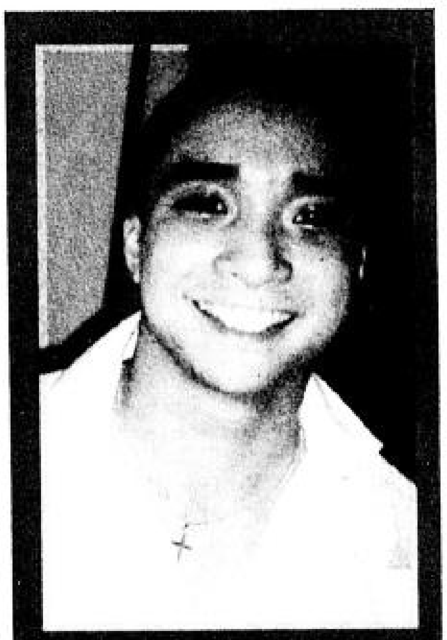
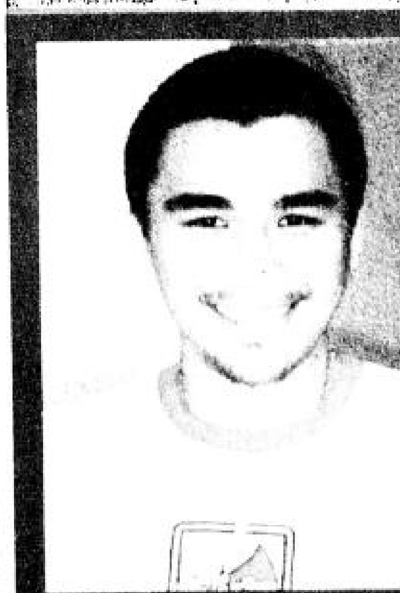
Superfriends

Text and Photos by David Milan
Want to be on Superfriends? Send your photos and contact numbers to david_milan@lycos.com



Neil Arce
When it's hot I: Go for a dip.
Who makes me sweat: My gym trainer! :-)
It's so hot I want to: Take my clothes off!
E-mail: neilarce@yahoo.com

Tinay See
[illegible]



RB dela Peña
When it's hot I: Perspire like a faucet
Who makes me sweat: Kristin Kreuk
It's so hot I want to: Eat ice monster!
E-mail: rb_0917@hotmail.com

Superfriends

Text and Photos by David Milan
Want to be on Superfriends? Send your photos and contact numbers to david_milan@lycos.com

Nicola Santiago
When it's hot I: Get cranky
Who makes me sweat: My dad
It's so hot I want to: Lock up my [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible]dayo@yahoo.com

Nikolo Juban
When it's hot: My nose bleeds!
Who makes me sweat: My math teachers.
It's so hot I want to: Go to wimpols in Star City.
E-mail: nikolojuban@hotmail.com

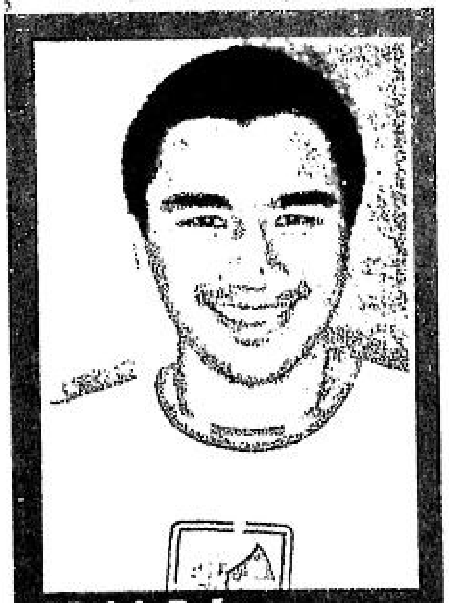
Rela Tan
When it's hot I: Wear lots of WHITE!
Who makes me sweat: Definitely my parents
It's so hot I want to: Jump in the pool
E-mail: [illegible]@yahoo.com

Jeric Lacson
When it's hot I: Sweat like everyone else
Who makes me sweat: My dad especially when he's pissed
It's so hot I want to: Go to the beach and swim
E-mail: jeclacson@yahoo.com

Sheilla Ng
When it's hot I: [illegible]
Who makes me sweat: [illegible]
It's so hot I want to: [illegible]
E-mail: [illegible]@yahoo.com

Neil Arce
When it's hot I: Go for a dip.
Who makes me sweat: My gym trainer! :-)
It's so hot I want to: Take my clothes off!
E-mail: neilarce@yahoo.com

Tinay See
[illegible]



RB dela Peña
When it's hot I: Perspire like a faucet
Who makes me sweat: Kristin Kreuk
It's so hot I want to: Eat ice monster!
E-mail: rb_0917@hotmail.com

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Girls! Just! Wanna! Have! Fun!

24/7
Janine Cuenca-Dario

CYNDI Lauper isn't visiting Manila but the title of her 80's monster classic is just the theme for this week's column. A gaggle of Filipino and international female artists have upcoming performances that will keep our nightlife continuously humming this week with music and comedy. Here are this week's events headlined by women. Men are definitely welcome.

Kevyn Lettau

Tonight: Jazz up your evening with Manila's favorite international singer in Memories of Love with Lou Pardini and Joe Pizzulo, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, QC. Call 911-5555.

Ella Mae Saison

Tonight: This international recording star will serenade you with her soothing, soulful voice at Soulful with guest singer Nina, 8:30 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call 891-9999 or the Music Museum at 721-0635.

Mai Castro

Tonight: Latin music with this energetic singer will make you get up and dance at Café Havana Greenbelt [Phone 757-4370, 757-4371].

Cynthia Alexander

Tonight: Catch this singer-songwriter-bassist who has been compared to Joni Mitchell at 10 p.m. at the Conspiracy Garden Cafe (Quezon City) and on Thursday, May 19, 9:30 p.m. at 70s Bistro (Anonas).

Kuh Ledesma

May 14, 20, 21, 27 and 28: The Saturdays and Sundays of this month Manila's diva will sing our favorite cinema themes in Songs That Made the Movies, Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Manila [Phone 750-8888]. For tickets, call 891-9999.

Once on This Island

May 14 to 29: A smorgasbord of talent with Menchu Lauchengco, Bituin Escalante, Radha Cuadrado together on one stage! This Broadway musical based on the classic tale Little Mermaid is on its first week at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater [RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue]. Call 891-9999 or 536-5844 for inquiries.

Lynn Sherman

May 17: Hot summer nights get cool with the vocals of this jazz singer at 70s Bistro.

The Soul Sisters Act

May 18: Ara Mina, Marissa Sanchez and Jessa Zaragoza entertain you with a musical comedy at the Metro Comedy Bar [#47 West Ave. Quezon City] at 9:00 p.m.

Other Super! 24/7 events this week:

May 14, Saturday

Dance Deluxe at Embassy
Dancehall Saturday at V Bar
House and RnB at Temple
DJ ScratchMark at Prince of Jaipur
Kevin Ruiz at Government
Arriba at Café Havana Maláte
Dezi Nights with DJ Lavz at Bollywood
Juan Miguel and the Authority at Dish

GIRLS/ E3

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Nationwide Promo
GET A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE TRIP TO
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Promo extended until MAY 31, 2005

- All mailed entries received until June 4, 2005 shall be qualified for the promo.
- Entries dropped in drop boxes are until May 31 only.
- Judging of entries will be on June 9 at the Richwell office.
- There will be 7 lucky winners for the consolation prizes:
  a. Gift certificate worth P1,500 of My Scene products (Valid for 1 year)
  b. 1 My Scene Stationery Portfolio

SO HURRY AND SEND YOUR ENTRIES NOW!!!
SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 0983 series of 2005

Set your child off to a brighter future at

Bright Minds on the Move
The Enervon Bright MALL TOUR

Ever wonder what you can do to make your child brighter? Let the experts of Enervon Bright show you how!

Bring your child to the BRIGHT MINDS ON THE MOVE in your nearest mall. There will be child psychologists and nutrition experts who will teach you ways on how you can raise a healthier, happier and brighter child.

We've also lined up a lot of exciting activities your kid will surely love. There will be activity booths, a puppet show, a raffle, and other surprises. Plus, special entertainment by child wonder, Goyong. The show will be hosted by the funny and feisty, Giselle Sanchez.

Choose from these venues on these following dates:
May 15 - Robinson's Metro East, Cainta
May 21 - Robinson's Galleria
May 28 - SM North Edsa
Program starts at 2 PM until 3:30 PM

Enervon Bright

The Future Looks Bright!

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Bright Moms Club
BRIX & FRIENDS ENTERPRISES
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PHILIPPINE Super

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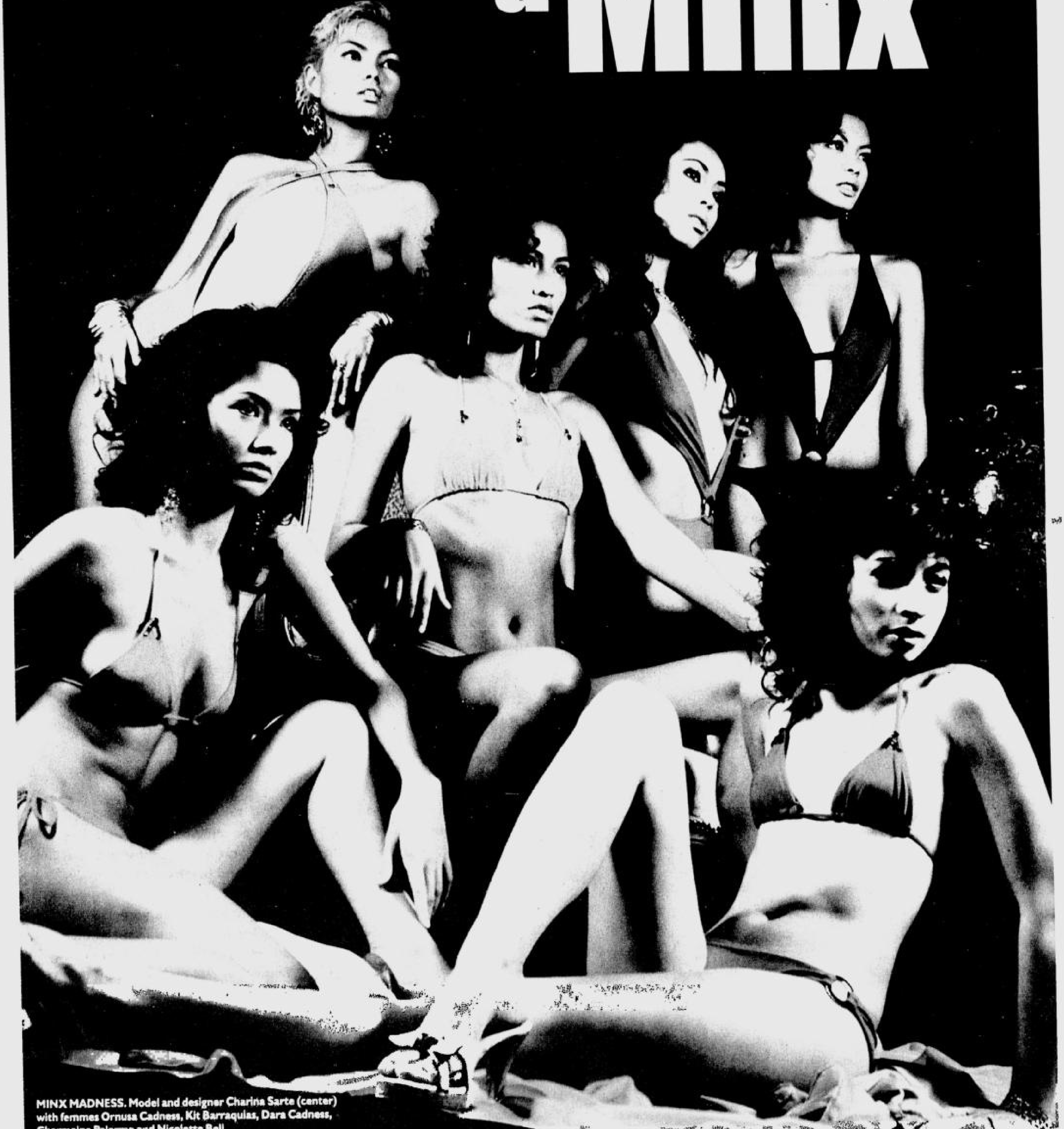

MINX MADNESS. Model and designer Charina Sarte (center) with femmes Ornusa Cadness, Kit Barraquias, Dara Cadness, Charmaine Palermo and Nicolette Bell

Styled by Charmaine Palermo
Make up by Leo Posadas

By Paulino Servado
Photos by Victor Consunji

THE SWELTERING heat. Girls in bikinis. Sun-kissed tans. Girls in bikinis. The smell of coconut oil. Girls in bikinis. It has definitely been one steamy summer!

As if sizzling wasn't enough, many babes still manage to raise temperatures by traipsing along our crystal beaches in their exciting—you guessed it—string bikinis. (Thank you, whoever you are who invented such a masterpiece to honor the female body!)

But girls, how many times have you walked down the beach, proudly sporting your newest two-piece, only to have your pride plunge deeper than your cleavage at the sight of someone wearing exactly the exact same stringy thing?

Many girls are no stranger to this story, and so the search for the "perfect bikini" may be harder than finding that elusive sunspray bottle cap in your sand-crusted beach bag. Talk about bikini kill!

Then along came Minx, a super fresh new swimwear line that gives women the option to have their orders personalized, by choosing the design and materials to suit their tastes and body types. Minx pieces are fun and sexy, with something that catches the attention of even the most trend- and body-conscious chick. Charina Sarte, the young fashion designer behind Minx, used to get so frustrated when she'd go swimsuit-shopping because there were not a lot of choices around. "Most of the stuff they sell here are so big and so unflattering!" she says, which drove her to start her own line. Her bright and bubbly personality shows in her designs, which are inspired by her constant visits to our country's beautiful beaches.

Why Minx? "If you look up minx in the dictionary, it means a seductive woman that uses her sex appeal to exploit men." (I say bring it on!)

After only a couple of months, Minx's original pieces have already been sold out. Charina now offers a full collection of eye-catching swimwear that captures the essence of Philippine beach culture.

So keep an eye out and think like a Minx! Contact Charina at 0917-9011922 or e-mail minxswim@yahoo.com.

Girls Just . . .

From page E1

May 15, Sunday

Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt

Paseo Uno Jazz Trio at Paseo Uno

Once On This Island at Carlos Romulo Theater

EU Football Memorabilia exhibit at Shangri-la Plaza

Forza Interna: Nudes Photographs at Galerie Astra

Roberto Robles exhibit at Galeria Duemila

May 16, Monday

I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos

Rock/Motown: Mondaze at Absinth

Acoustic Night with Release at Temple

Tropikasya at Café Havana Greenbelt

Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood

Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Route 70 at Dusit Hotel

Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah!

Huka and Salindiwa at Dish

May 17, Tuesday

Eclectic: Top DJ's Jam at Absinth

Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt

Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood

Spirit of 67 at Captain's Bar

Bloomfields at Dish

Mocha and Spin Art at Dusit Hotel

Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah!

Worldtelecom Day at Bed

May 18, Wednesday

RnB/Hip-hop: Superklasse at Embassy

Singles Night at Temple

Ladies Night with Wendel Garcia at Prince of Jaipur

Steak Wednesdays at Absinth

Arriba at Café Havana G'belt

Guarana at Café Havana Malate

Sing India Band at Bollywood

Way Back Wednesdays at Bed

Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Bing Uy at Dusit Hotel

VIP Blow at Government

May 19, Thursday

Silk with Miguel Ramirez at Temple

VEN with Arnel G and John Monreal at V Bar

Phuture Thursdays with Cocoy Puyat at Bed

Mars Miranda and Steven Love at Government

Retro Night with DJ Scratch-Mark at Prince of Jaipur

Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt

Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate

Acoustic Nights at Bollywood

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Silk at Dusit Hotel

May 20, Friday

Block Screening of Star Wars Episode III : The Revenge of the Sith at Premier THX

Star Wars screening party at ClubV 5

Decadance with Boyet Almazan at Jill's

Musik at Embassy

CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine

Steve Mills at V Bar

Fresh Fridays with DJ Aryan at Phi Bar

Jon Herrera at Temple

Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt

Tropikasya at Café Havana Malate

House and Lounge at Prince of Jaipur

Men of Government at Government

Watch out for more next week with the Summer Woodstock 2005 on May 21 at the Amoranto Stadium Open Field.

Featuring Pepe Smith, Noel Cabangon, The Dawn, Cookie Chua, Bamboo, and others. (Call 0922 301-0168 or 426-1749); Ashanti: Live in Manila on May 26, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, Cubao, QC. (Call 911-5555) and with Nina on May 27 and 28, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum, (Call 891-9999 or 721-0635).

Pops Fernandez will perform on May 27 at 9 p.m. at the Casino Filipino. Call Ticketnet: 911-5555.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Win P1 million, Ipod Shuffles weekly and a Peugeot!

Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.

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Use your **MasterCard/MasterCard Electronic card** at the above three (3) participating malls from **May 1-31, 2005.** The owner of the MasterCard number with the highest shopping expenditure at the end of the promo becomes the ***Xtreme Shopper*** representative of the Philippines to Singapore on June 25, 2005! Exciting prizes are in store for the **Top Shopper** and for **10 more lucky shoppers** of each mall.

So charge up and join the search!

See flyers at participating malls for more details • Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2281 Series of 2005

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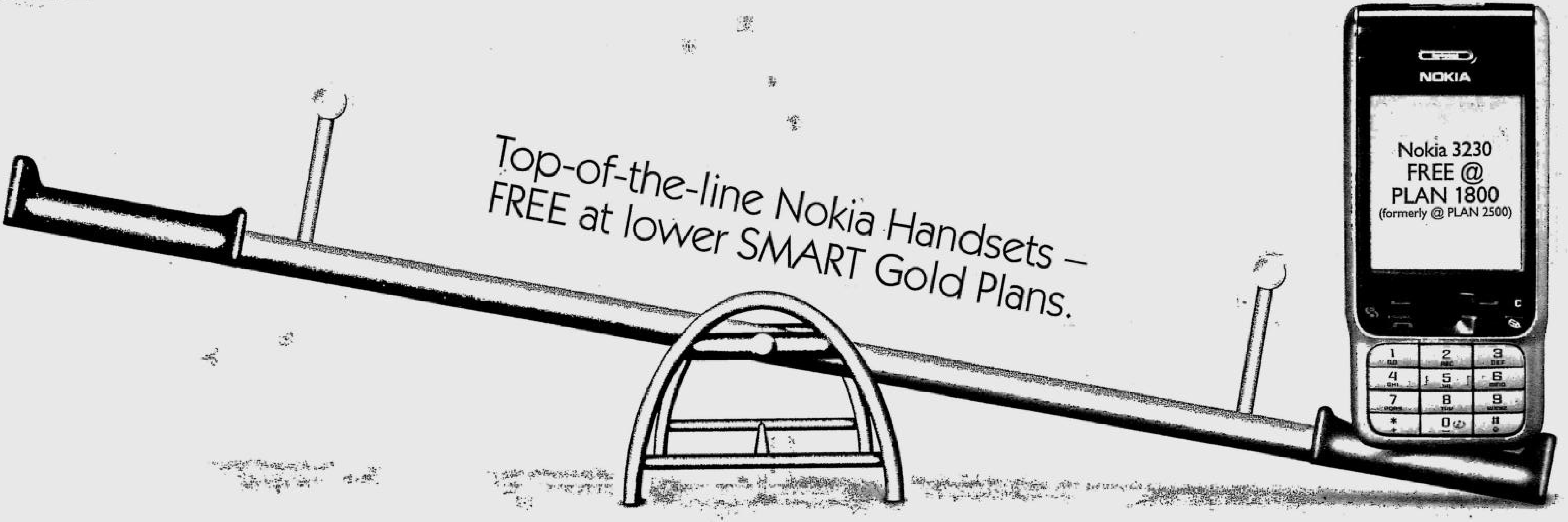

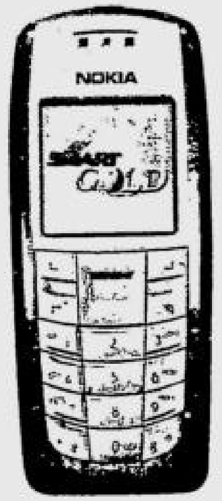
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(formerly @ PLAN 1200)

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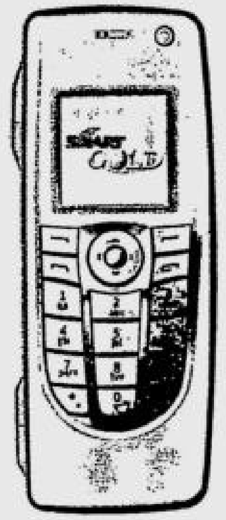
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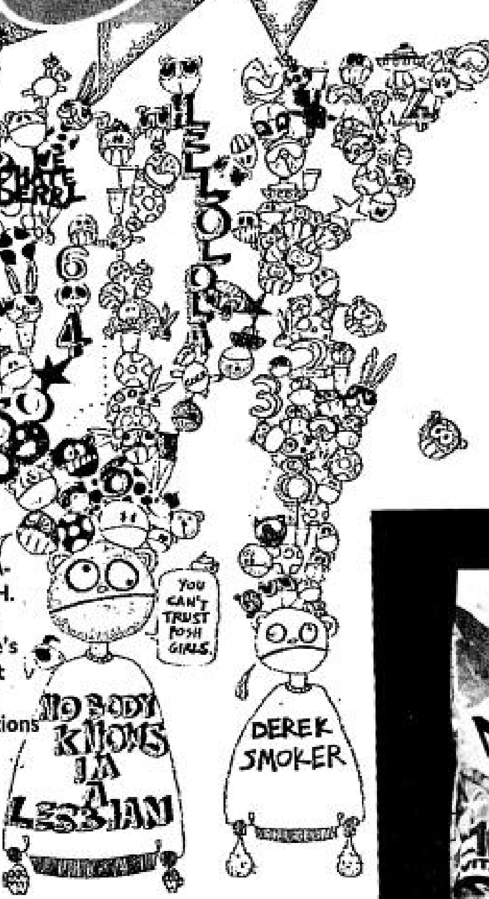
From T-shirts and CD covers to magazine layouts and ad campaigns, analog illustration is going through a renaissance


YOU CAN'T TRUST POSH GIRLS.
NO BODY KNOWS I'M A LESBIAN
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ETCH-A-SKETCH. William Broome's cute but sinister illustrations

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Pop goes the easel

LO-FI art is in effect, kids. Or more precisely, it still is.

For several years now, the two-dimensionality of Japanese graphic art and animation has influenced global youth culture, turning it superflat and apparently supercute in the process.

Coined by steady Louis Vuitton collaborator, Takashi Murakami, superflat describes the way graphic design, pop culture and visual art are compressed—or flattened—in Japan. Its 2D nature is a shout-out to the Japanese cartoon culture of *manga*—a charming and chipper world that is anything but real.

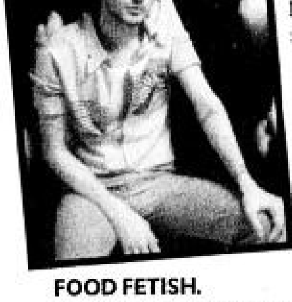
Superflat is also a statement about the shallowness of the country's consumer culture.

It's ironic then that Murakami's rebellious aesthetic has been recruited by mainstream powerhouse LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton to hawk thousands of "it" bags, most recently the LV Monogram Cerises Speedy. And it's even more astounding how *manga* mania—or the Murakami Effect, as I'd like to call it—has converged with international fashion and high-end design to produce today's quirky analog sensibility.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Superflat at work



FOOD FETISH. Spring/Summer 2005 Miu Miu menswear

For instance, the overall look at Miu Miu, Prada's diffusion menswear line, for Spring-/Summer '05 was literally garden fresh. Cartoon mushrooms and other pleasantly-drawn produce garnished striped shirts. Tracing this trend-of-the-second back to last year, though, the doodles at Marc by Marc Jacobs were similarly light-hearted but with a sinister quality about them. English illustrator William Broome's deadpan bears, naïve owls and smiling skulls went hand-in-ink-stained-hand with the designer's schoolday nostalgia.

Speaking of skulls, David Bray's playful *Dia de los Muertos*-style skeletons shared the cover of style magazine Flaunt's Issue 60 with Kate Beckinsale. The contrast of slick (Kate) and crude (Bray's sketches) was superflat at work—fashion photography plus kiddie illustration equals a new genre.

Likewise, embodying and subverting Murakami's dead-flat definition of art is Belgian artist Jean-Luc Moerman. His psychedelic 2D tattoos for Absolut Vodka may remind you of *manga*'s charged attitude at first glance. However, the one-off fluorescent stickers come to life when placed over the body.

POP GOES/ F2

POP GOES THE EASEL

From page F1

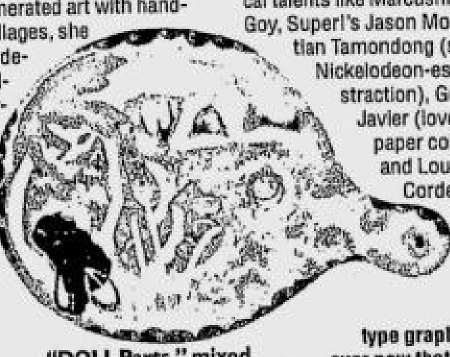
Think InK

THE LOW-KEY brilliance of hand-crafted art is being embraced by a number of young Filipino illustrators, too. *Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan* (Illustrators for Children) or InK is an association of artists committed to the creation and promotion of illustrations for children.

Fulfilling the need for visceral, authentic and spontaneous art, the works of *Ang InK* members Marcushiro, Bru, Paolo Lim and Pepper Roxas are warm and more natural. Their mixed media confections evoke a certain innocence and candor that remind me of doodles by bored but extremely talented students. Moving away from the somewhat saturated style popularized by Wallpaper* illustrator Jordi Labanda and Hed Kandi's Jason Brooks, these *Ang InK* mavericks won't be under-the-radar for long.

Junk is cool

A member of art collective the Pop Fandanggas, Bru—as she would like to be known—writes, draws and does graphic design work for MTV Ink. Fusing computer-generated art with handmade collages, she has also designed album covers for cool local electronica outfit Drip, R&B posse Chillitees and alt-rock bodhisattvas Paramita. Music, it appears, is a big influence in Bru's work.



"DOLL Parts," mixed media on wood

What media do you use?

I'm not a brand-conscious artist when it comes to materials. Whatever's handy is okay. I also love collecting bits of stuff—clothing tags, gift-wrapping paper, receipts, etc.

Who are your greatest influences?

My biggest idols are Japanese Aya Takano from the Kaikai Kiki Co. SuperFlat group (headed by Takashi Murakami) and American painter/artist/toy maker and designer Tim Biskup, who's done a lot of stuff for Cartoon Network (groovy backdrops for "Time Squad" and "Samurai Jack," among others).

Of course, I also look up to local talents like Marcushiro, Abi Goy, Super!'s Jason Moss, Christian Tamondong (sunny Nickelodeon-esque abstraction), Geraldine Javier (lovely found-paper collages) and Louie Cordero.

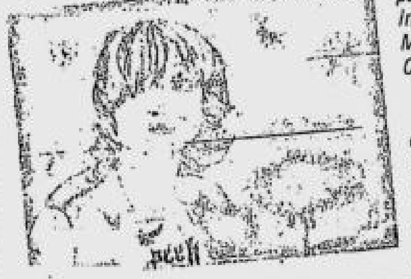
Do you think the era of Hed Kandi-type graphic art is over now that everyone has co-opted the look?

Paano, they've ripped it off to death. Such a shame—the ripping off part. But I guess the medium is not the issue; intellectual property rights are screwed in the Philippines. Anyhow, it's still a wicked fashion illustration style that just faded from mainstream's radar. Which is good; it's not a trend anymore. The artists who specialize in that glossy style will continue to evolve and improve their craft.

You can see Bru's doodles on Ang InK's website http://ink.group.ph and http://eyp.ph.

She also has some paintings in Vintage Pop in Cubao X, a.k.a. the Marikina Shoe Expo in Cubao.

For now, kiddies can e-mail her at badbluberri@yahoo.com or text 0917-8957262.



"PEEK," mixed media on wood

Graphic heart, analog soul

Paolo Lim is pretty clumsy with words. With pictures and drawings, he found he could be much more, like, articulate and stuff. As a member of the band Sound and a graphic designer for T-shirt lines Analog Soul and Soul Candy, music is his biggest influence. "Books, magazines, movies, TV, internet, travel, people—anything and everything is visual food," Paolo says.

DESIGN for Analog Soul (2005)

How did you get into graphic design?

I had always been into drawing/painting as a kid, so I just kind of "wandered" into illustration/graphic art, even before I realized it was something I wanted to do as a "grown-up." I use the usual media—paper, pencils, paint, computer, scanner, camera...

Is it a personal or commercial pursuit?

Both. For a while I found that doing it as a job was getting in the way of my getting anything out of it personally, but I've adjusted my attitude to fix that. So now I try to make sure that the commercial projects I accept are fulfilling on a personal level as well—I find that's usually the best commercial work, anyway—and I also try to make time for projects with little or no commercial value whatsoever, just to keep me sane and grounded. Or insane and un-grounded.

Doodles seem to be everywhere. Have you noticed a significant resurgence in non-computer generated art?

Yes, definitely. I think it's just a natural reaction to the super-clean, very computer-y look that was big not so long ago. It's necessary—evolution, regeneration, whatever you want to call it.

For T-shirts, guys can visit the Analog Soul website at http://www.analogsoul.sound.ph and girls can check out Soul Candy at http://www.soulcandy.sound.ph. Some of his photographs are up on the sound site http://www.sound.ph and a few children's books are available at National Bookstore.

E-mail redeye@trip.ph.

BANNER for Sound

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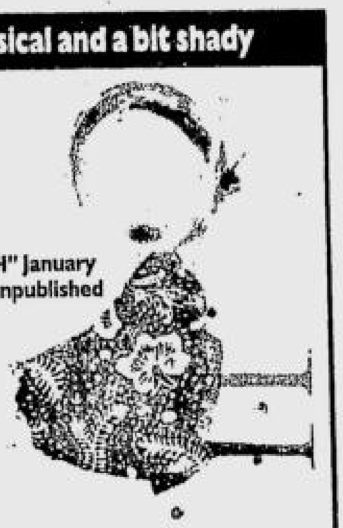
Whimsical and a bit shady



"OUCH" January 2005, unpublished work

Pepper Roxas has liked drawing since she was little. "So it seemed like a natural progression for me to move on to professional illustration after scrawling on my mother's walls for so long," she says.

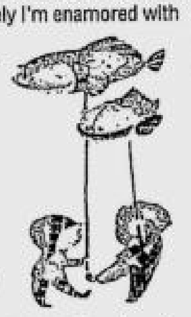
Illustrating professionally for ten years now, she got her first break drawing Iggy Ipis for Junior INQUIRER. Describing her style as "playful mischief with a dash of mild anarchy," Pepper would like to find a small group of people she could make all sorts of things with—screened cards, toys, posters and paintings.

Who are your greatest influences?

Some of my earlier influences include Roald Dahl, Lane Smith, Romare Bearden, Hanna Höch, Maurice Sendak, Beth Parrocha and Maira Kalman. Lately I'm enamored with Kveta Pacovská, Marcel Dzama and Yoshitomo Nara.

Have you noticed a resurgence in handmade art?

Sure I've noticed. It's all over the place, and not just in magazines, advertising and commercial merchandise. It seems that even in the big city art scene, people again have a growing interest in art that's more unpolished and raw.



FROM forthcoming book "100 Questions Filipino Children Ask"

In a way, doodling was a backlash to computer-generated art. What's next in this design cycle?

I don't think that ultra slick, computer-generated art will go away. One can easily combine rough hand-drawing and turn it into a more organic [though] computer-rendered image. Also, as long as the computer exists, there will always be people who will find this medium useful in expressing themselves.

In terms of trends, the organic styles of today will probably be the dominant "style" later on and, by then, the smooth, clean lines of the computer will again be the "in" thing, and so on. Best to just keep drawing.

To see her work you can watch out for the annual Ang InK exhibit or simply visit a bookstore and head for the local children's books section. To purchase her notecards, you can visit Tawalisi Antiques on Pasay Road, Ishq and Souk in Ortigas.

Check out roxasdesign.com and e-mail hello@roxasdesign.com

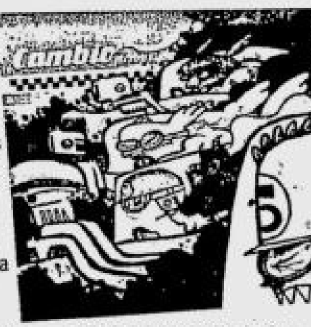
Pop and street

Marcushiro studied Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas but learned more about graphic design through *Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan*. After college, he had an imaginary design lab called "brainchildesignlab" and a website, both of which have since folded up.

Illustrating for children's books gave Marcushiro the break he wanted and, from time to time, he exhibits his works—all in the name of fun. He has also designed album packaging for Cambio's "Derby Light," DJ Arbie Won's "United Freestyles v2.0," Juan Isip, Silent Sanctuary's "Ellipsis of the Mind" and Dyords Javier's "Puede."

What media do you use?

I use whatever I can get my hands on. I go for diversity, different media for different approaches. For my book illustrations, I make it a point to use a different medium for each.



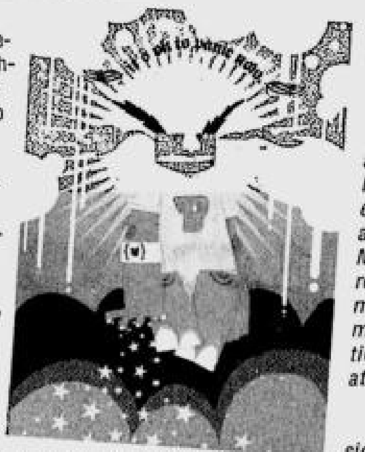
CD PACKAGING design, Cambio's "Derby Light"

Who are your greatest influences?

My all-time list of influential artists includes Bernibru, Abi Goy, Robert Alejandro, Super!'s Jason Moss, Beth Parrochia Doctolero, Red Eye Trip, Pepper Roxas, The Fandanggos, Louie Cordero, Sam Keith, Joe Sorren, Dave McKean, Ted McKeever, Bill Watterson, Lisbeth Zwerger and the list goes on...

Do you belong to any design/graphic collective outside *Ang InK*?

I'm on my own for now. We [Bru and I] are coming up with a kick-ass one this year though.



"ILMOSTRO di Fuschio," artwork from *Ang InK* exhibit

Marcushiro's children's books are available at your friendly neighborhood bookstores (under the name of his alter ego, Marcus Nada). A couple of framed artworks are for sale at Vintage Pop in Marikina Shoe Expo, Cubao. His analog robot stickers are lurking around the metro, some are touring Europe as of the moment and some are at stickemation.net. Some of his works are also up at http://ink.group.ph/

You can contact him at brainchildesign@yahoo.com or mobile 0920-8225873.

Love in the time of hollering

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

I know this couple that have been dating for several months and all they do is fight about everything. They are both my friends so I don't take sides, but I cannot stand the way they treat each other, even in public. Sometimes they even get violent!

I have on several occasions advised them to break up, but even when they do, they always get back together. Then they fight again. Why do people stay together when they act like they hate each other so much?

THERE are no new stories, just variations of age-old themes. It has been suggested that there are only eight unique storylines, and every other legend, myth, fable, movie, play and anecdote is but a compound of these eight raw materials.

Of this octet, the most paired together in sordid permutations are Love and Hate. Think Romeo and Juliet, The Iliad, or the Joey Marquez and Kris Aquino affair.

While depressing to artists seeking to break new ground, the theory of repeating themes appears to ring true for the everyman, especially when considering that terrible and fantastic realm of romantic relationships. Terrible in the Old Testament sense, because Love, like a vengeful God, can be quite nasty, raining fire, brimstone and alimony on unsuspecting couples. Fantastic in the New Testament sense, because the same people are ever hopeful of that second or third chance at happiness, eventual stability or sexual satisfaction, whichever (or whoever) comes first.

But why are Love and Hate so often a pair when these concepts are polar opposites? Is not Love that positive glowing Sun that shines above all, casting light and giving life, inspiring everything from the bloom of flowers to Michael Bolton's career? Is not Hate the dark core of a seething planet, causing livid acne to erupt in violent spurts, clouding the daylight with suffocating ash, only useful when burying unwanted civilizations of traumatic memory?

And when these two—constantly seen together in social events or hip Japanese sake bars squabbling, slapping, punching, hurling invectives or Ballenciaga bags at each other—so obviously despise each other, why do they still go home together? It doesn't seem to make sense.

Welcome to Planet Hurt

We all know people caught in relationships like these. Perhaps we've been in them ourselves, or are currently entangled in a similar web of venomous filament. From personal experience: I live with two gay men who committed the sophomoric mistake of moving in together before they really knew each other. While charming and civil most of the week, this couple erupts into a fury of sporadic violence and mayhem every few days, like a nasty zit that recurs just when you thought the cream was finally working. We're talking fistfights, insults, microwave-hurling, wallet-stealing, shirt-tearing and threats of legal action. Did I mention microwave-hurling?

And they just happen to pick the convenient hours of two or three in the morning to commence these sessions of anger mismanagement. Every other night, the police are in the house to calm things down. Every other night they swear it's over.

Every other night I can't have dinner because the appliances have been turned into weapons of mass destruction. And in the morning, they are cuddling and hugging, vowing fealty and fidelity forever, asking forgiveness from their sleep-deprived roommates, as well as a ten-dollar contribution for a new microwave.

People caught in these vicious cycles do not stay together out of love. I refuse to accept that line of reasoning. People who suffer these situations stay together because they believe they have no alternative but to stay together.

For the children, for the financial stability, for the emotional security—okay, I'll buy those reasons. But not love. And while all those former examples are credible enough to validate physical or emotional turmoil—I'm not going to argue against them—it would be misguided and self-deluding to pretend that these are in anyway related to romantic love.

To clarify, every relationship encounters the occasional road bump, some serious enough to warrant a reality check or therapy. Human beings have souls of combustible material and the closer two people get, the more likely that friction will result in the occasional fire. This is natural.

But when we are talking about two people who are constantly locking horns, usually about the same thing they fought about last week or some other petty incident that, in normal circumstances, could have been solved with a Coke and a smile, then maybe it's time they inject themselves with a healthy dose of self-admission medicine.

If your boyfriend is irked because he saw you chatting with your old block mate who just happens to have a penis, and you realize that you have had this very same discussion 15 weekends in a row with 15 failed justifications and its probably going to end up with a cab ride and a black eye, you can either put up with this shit and stop talking to guys forever, or quit smoking your narcotic relationship cold turkey.

People like that don't care if the new Pope comes to Manila just to vouch for your innocence. They're still going to pick a fight. And it is NOT because he or she is a Scorpio, okay?

A good sign of relationships in need of assessment is constant fighting. If you and your partner spend more time bitching about toilet seats and unanswered phone texts, then sit down and think about that.

So good it hurts?

Another sign is fighting in public. If you have been sighted more than twice in public making like black-belters in Greenbelt, then sit down and think about that.

Finally—which really is the hardest thing to do—determine whether you guys are really together for the right reasons. If you still claim that you love him or her despite your lack of teeth or self-worth, then sit down and think about this:

People who love each other do NOT want to hurt each other.

I don't care which rap album you're currently listening to, the truth is as simple as that.

The old saying, "You always hurt the one you love" refers to the pain that comes with the intense euphoria accompanying genuine emotion. We hurt them accidentally, almost inevitably, because real love also has to embrace harsh reality, which is often painful. Like when a parent punishes a child for a mistake, or a lover admits to an indiscretion to purge the guilt and wipe the slate clean. This is a pain that is intended to rectify and strengthen a relationship, akin to breaking a bone deliberately so as to make it straighter.

But when two people are in a recurring and trivial warfare, nothing is getting better, no one is getting stronger, and the bones of this romance are about to tear right through the flesh.

When you fight often, an aspect of cruelty creeps into the dynamic, and you find yourself anticipating if not inciting conflict. Worst of all, the couple begins to accept this as a normal characteristic of their relationship. What is left in the fall-out are two people who expect this kind of treatment from one another, and anyone unlucky enough to carry their baggage in the future.

There is nothing sadder then an individual who, damaged beyond all recognition, believes that this kind of fighting and abuse defines the modern romance, thus they get involved with another person cut from the same frayed fabric. But they also say a dog that is beaten often enough will bite any hand whether it's holding a steak or a stick.

I know enough friends who attempt to excuse their partners' actions by saying, "but when he treats me good, it's really good," to know that even they don't believe that this is sufficient justification for making a person feel bad about themselves the rest of the time.

That's going to leave a scar

These couples stay together because both of them, or one of them believes there is no choice. That, maybe, this is as good as it gets. Or, they don't want to be alone. Or, the constant barrage of insults and bruises are necessary training for the metaphysical eventuality that getting into Heaven is like being in the American Idol—all souls have to perform in front of a panel of really particular judges headed by St. Paula (who was once Saula) Abdul and St. Peter (who was once Simon) Cowell. Randy Jackson is judging in Hell.

The advice is self-evident. Work it out quickly, or bail out before the wounds become permanent scars. The only time genuine love relationships should be in constant pain is if you guys are into S&M. In which case it still shouldn't be done in public.

I'm a sucker for romance. I want every instance to work out. But the day a person convinces me that they're expressing their love through perennial agitation is the day pigs fly. Or microwaves.

(E-mail author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

SUPER SELECTIONS!

CUFFABLE Carlos Bocanegra

CUFF ME!

What's this? A hot new band!

By Tals Diaz

YOU'RE human, so you just can't help it. You do it in the sauna, out on the beach, on the playing field, in the gym, hell, even in the presence of a hot babe. It just happens. You sweat. And if sweating was a crime, then we should all get Cuffed.

It's the hot, hot new coveted sports gear from Nike. The Cuff takes off from that classic, useful little wrist accessory worn by skaters, sports stars and aging tennis pros—the sweatband. Add on a sleek, digital watch nugget and you're all set to sweat with style.

The cool thing about this hot band is that it can also be customized. It comes with three different colored sweatbands where you can affix the detachable timepiece.

And to keep your Cuff from smelling like you after a three-hour workout in this 40-plus degree heat, just make like a basketball player and shoot this water-resistant band into the washing machine.

And what can be hotter than a hottie wearing the Cuff? His name is Carlos Bocanegra, pro football player for Team USA, anointed by Nike to cuff it up. Carlos is the first defender to score four goals for the US in a year since 1994. He combines size, aggressiveness and speed in one intimidating, cuffable package.

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SUPER SELECTIONS

Tracks go back to basics, liberate and simply please

By Chabs Rubio

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Super! chose 7 slamming CDs for your sizzling summer soundtrack

VARIOUS ARTISTS–HED KANDI WINTER CHILL - 06.04

Unlike most of Hed Kandi's releases, this two-disc edition of the Winter Chill series features trip-hop beats and vocals by nearly anonymous chanteuses. The second disc is probably the most curious, original, and unexpected disc in the entire Hed Kandi catalog. Contributions from Mazzy Star, Lamb, Natalie Imbruglia, and Snow Patrol are all here, which is an oddity for a series priding itself on being a dominant force in commercial dance music.

Nonetheless, it's a nice blend of smooth textures and a well curated song list that serves its purpose.

FAITH EVANS–THE FIRST LADY

WARNER MUSIC

The first Faith Evans album without the Bad Boy logo on the sleeve and the word "faith" in the title, The First Lady proves that she only gets better with time.

At less than an hour running time, it's Faith's shortest album to date, which also helps make it her tightest.

The dip in quality during the latter half of the album has more to do with the first half's excellence and numerous dimensions, including the punchy Neptunes production "Goin' Out," the uplifting "Again," and "Stop n Go", a gorgeous ballad with a devastating chorus.

MARIAH CAREY – THE EMANCIPATION OF MIMI

MCA MUSIC

You don't expect to hear a streetwise quip like, "Them chickens is ash and I'm lotion," fall from the well-appointed lips of veteran pop star Mariah Carey, but that's exactly what she belts on "It's Like That," from The Emancipation of Mimi.

As the title of her eighth studio album indicates, Carey—Mimi to close friends—has unleashed the less P.C. side of her personality. And to compensate for any weathering of her pristine pipes, she enlists a topnotch team of collaborators on the Kanye West-produced "Stay the Night" and the Neptunes-helmed "Say Somethin'."

SOUNDTRACK–STAR WARS REVENGE OF THE SITH

Sony Music

This official soundtrack to Star Wars: Episode III–Revenge of the Sith features a new score by legendary film composer John Williams and an exclusive bonus DVD containing over 70 minutes of film footage and music. The package also includes liner notes from George Lucas and a fold-out poster featuring a montage of images from the film.

MOBY–HOTEL

EMI MUSIC

While it might be stretching things to call Hotel a "back to basics" album, . it's certainly the most organic sonic mass in Moby's universe. For starters, the techno titan largely dispenses with the carefully structured vocal samples that usually top off his compositions, taking the mic himself on some songs and calling upon chanteuse Laura Dawn for a handful of others. Her alternately breathy and beckoning delivery adds a particularly sensual tone to the postcoital bask "I Like It" as well as a slowed-down, radically revamped cover of New Order's "Temptation."

Moby proves to be no slouch in the vocal department, either, channeling ghosts of glam-rock past on "Spiders," the disc's most guitar-intensive track. Thanks to both the songwriting and the sequencing, Hotel has a nice, natural ebb and flow, with high-energy rave-ups like "Lift Me Up"—probably the disc's most obvious homage to Moby's early days on the club scene—building up loads of tension, while more introspective cuts like "Homeward Angel" allow for a laconic release.

ROB THOMAS – SOMETHING TO BE

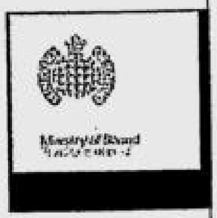
WARNER MUSIC

As frontman of Matchbox Twenty, Rob Thomas proved himself a pop tunesmith whose songs, including the hit "Push," were crowd-pleasing if not always memorable. But his solo debut, the surprisingly ambitious Something to Be, showcases the most confident Thomas since his breakthrough, "Smooth" with Carlos Santana.

The disc has no shortage of simple, catchy tracks—like the Latin-tinged "Lonely No More"—that come decked out in crisply pressed settings.

The title track is similarly up-tempo, with Thomas getting in touch with his inner Joe Cocker, but Something to Be doesn't ignore the singer's way with a power ballad, as evidenced by the intimate "When the Heartache Ends."

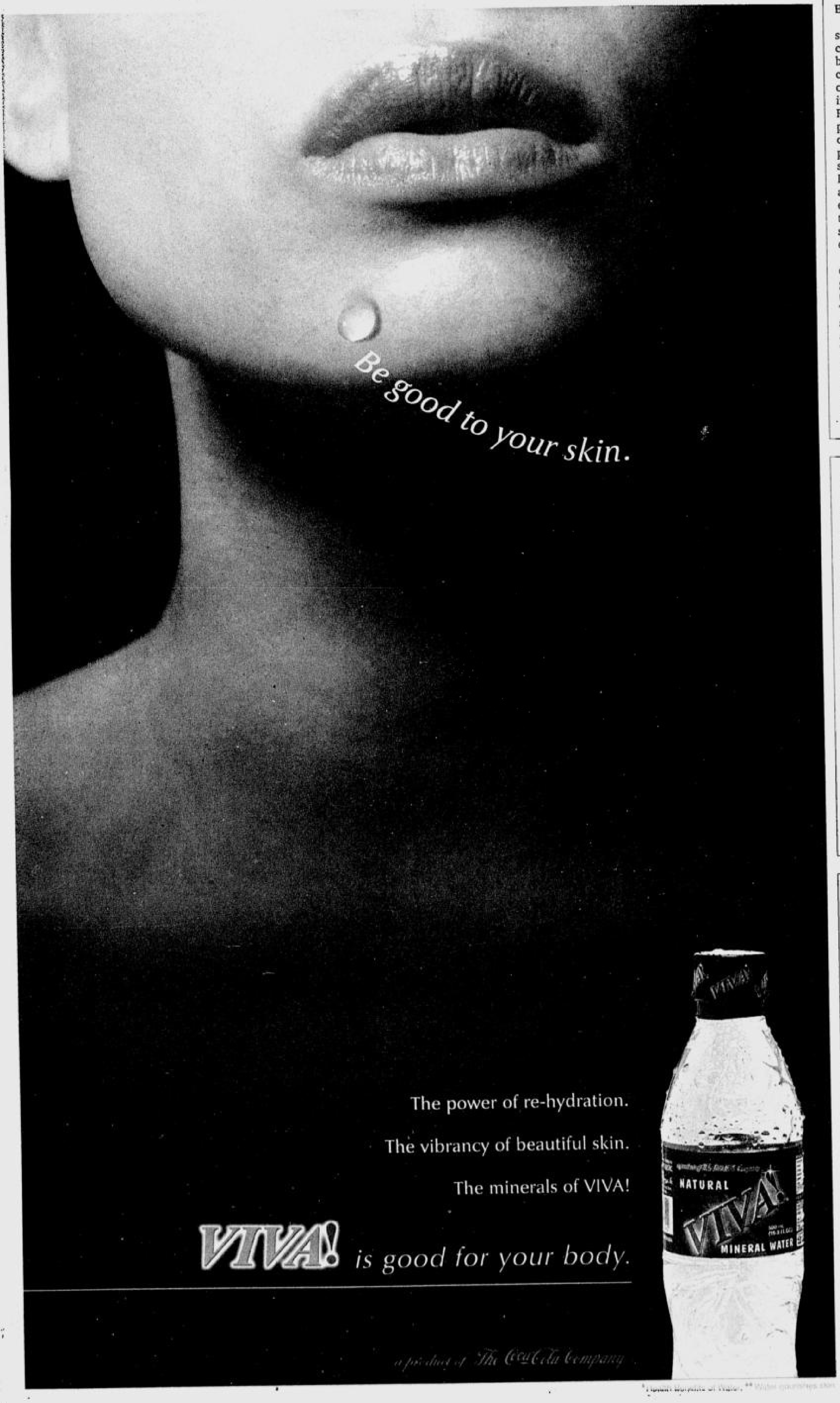
VARIOUS ARTISTS–MINISTRY OF SOUND ANNUAL 2005



Wasting absolutely no time in compiling the progressive house's finest moments of the past year, this annual starts off with Eric Prydz's smash European hit "Call on Me." This track not only brilliantly samples Steve Winwood's '80s pop hit "Valerie," but it sets the tone for the remainder of the two-disc set.

Lots of percussive buildups and breakdowns, filtered and washed samples from pop music over the past two decades all placed over a hypnotic and relentless kick drum that is unforgiving at times. Those seeking exactly what Ministry of Sound has to offer year in and year out won't be disappointed, but those with the more discriminating may find this annual cumbersome after the first disc.

As with many of Ministry's mix sets, this could have been parsed down to one outstanding disc rather than two good ones. Regardless, with all the dance compilations out there, the Ministry of Sound still offers the best bang for the buck. It's almost like being right in front of the speaker stacks, minus the whistle blowing, glow-stick chucking club kids.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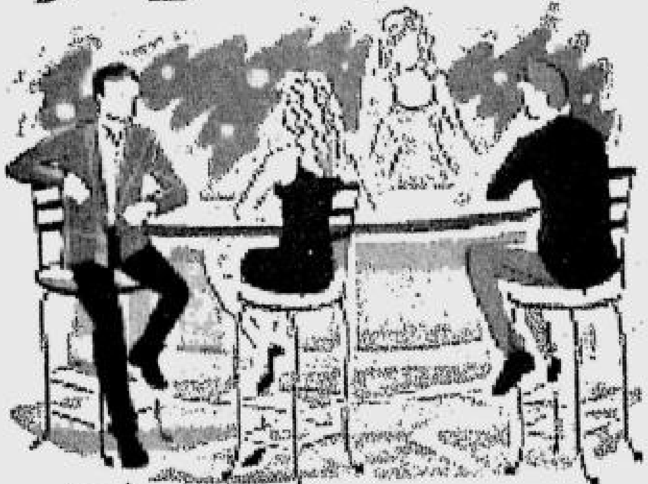

Bar none

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

A FAMOUS man once said, "All right brain, I don't like you and you don't like me. So let's just do this and I'll get back to killing you with beer." Okay, so he isn't exactly a real man, but he is quite a famous character named Homer Simpson.

I recently channeled this yellow oaf when I found out that another one of my favorite bars in the city had, like so many others before it, poured out its last beer and closed shop for good.

In eloquent Homerian fashion, all I could cry out was "Doh!" (emphasized with the signature hand-to-face slap). A quick shuffle of memories of the past year and a half indulging my senses in that dimly-lit sanctuary revealed brilliant nights of heady rock music, inebriated-but-ingenious conversations, peals of laughter heard through smokescreens, great dates, deplorable ones, *bastos* drinks with appropriate *bastos* names for them, and the occasional transvestite throwing up in the bathroom. It was time once again to close this chapter in my novella of a nightlife less ordinary. Doh!

Yet such is the fate of so many of Manila's nocturnal sanctums—like an "American Idol" contestant, you can be the toast of the town one minute, and then turn toast as soon as another one catches the fancy of the A.D.D.-inflicted public.

Home with a brew

"So where do we hang out now?" asked a fellow barfly, as if not having a place to head to on Thursday nights signaled the onset of an existential crisis. Then again, a bar does offer the comfort of a second home.

Choosing a hangout where you voluntarily liquidate (in the most literal sense) your oft-meager disposable income is akin to house-hunting. The vibe, the décor, and even the people around, are an extension of your character.

So it's no exaggeration that when the last call becomes the final call, you do feel a part of yourself slipping away. What was once your regular pitstop becomes a crumbling monument in your architecture of youth, rebuilt only as an invisible structure by the power of memory.

I would revisit those old haunts by reconstructing them in my head through memories of old songs, strange dialogues, and faces of people; fixtures of places I once called home.

Beer-nursing culture

In Manila's two-degree of separation society, young patrons have the power to create a scene; to make a bar a destination. But they also have the power to spell its demise.

I always thought that Manila's nocturnal set had a collective consciousness—many are so conscious of being seen at the "in" or "right" places, in a never-ending cycle of playing "It."

But being tagged as "It" could be a double-edged sword. "When we realized our restaurant was becoming more of the hip bar to be seen in, we knew we had to change course and start emphasizing the restaurant part," says the part-owner of a popular chain that was once upon a time an A-list hangout. "You could be a fad and, unless you do something, you could be up there for months until people get bored and move on to another place. It's a kiss of death when you're labeled *laos*."

Yep, the Manila crowd can be a fickle bunch!

Some take a more positive stance. "Being the 'in' place is a good thing in Manila," says the ex-owner of my newly-defunct hangout that enjoyed its prime for a little over a year. "However, the trick is sustaining it. To be on top, the owners have to pull their own weight and make every effort to try and stay on top."

An establishment's popularity may not necessarily transform it into a cash cow. The problem with being labeled as "It" is that a bar may be filled with the dreaded, penny-pinching beer-nursers who consume more space than food or drinks.

"When there's a band or DJ playing, most customers will buy one beer every hour. Now how the hell is the bar supposed to pay for the band or DJ if all patrons

BAR/G3

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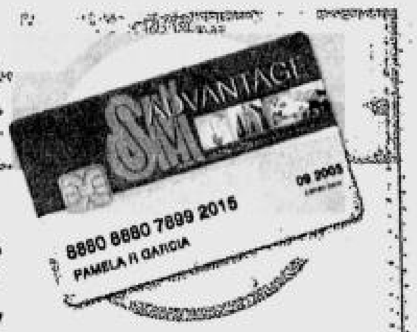

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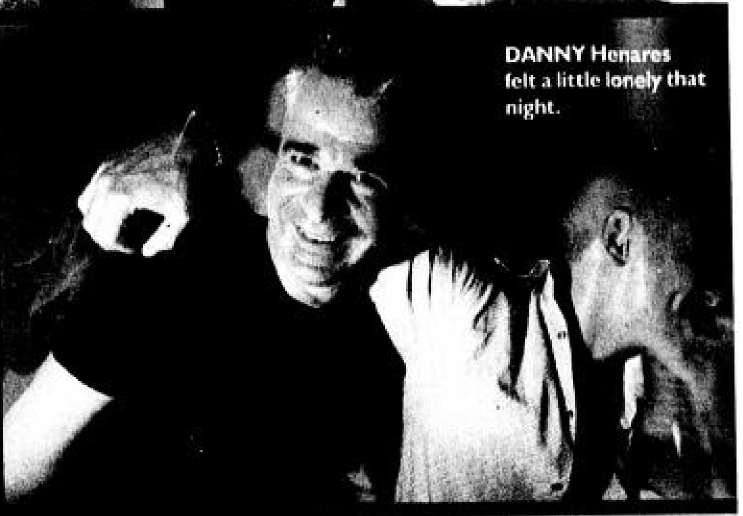
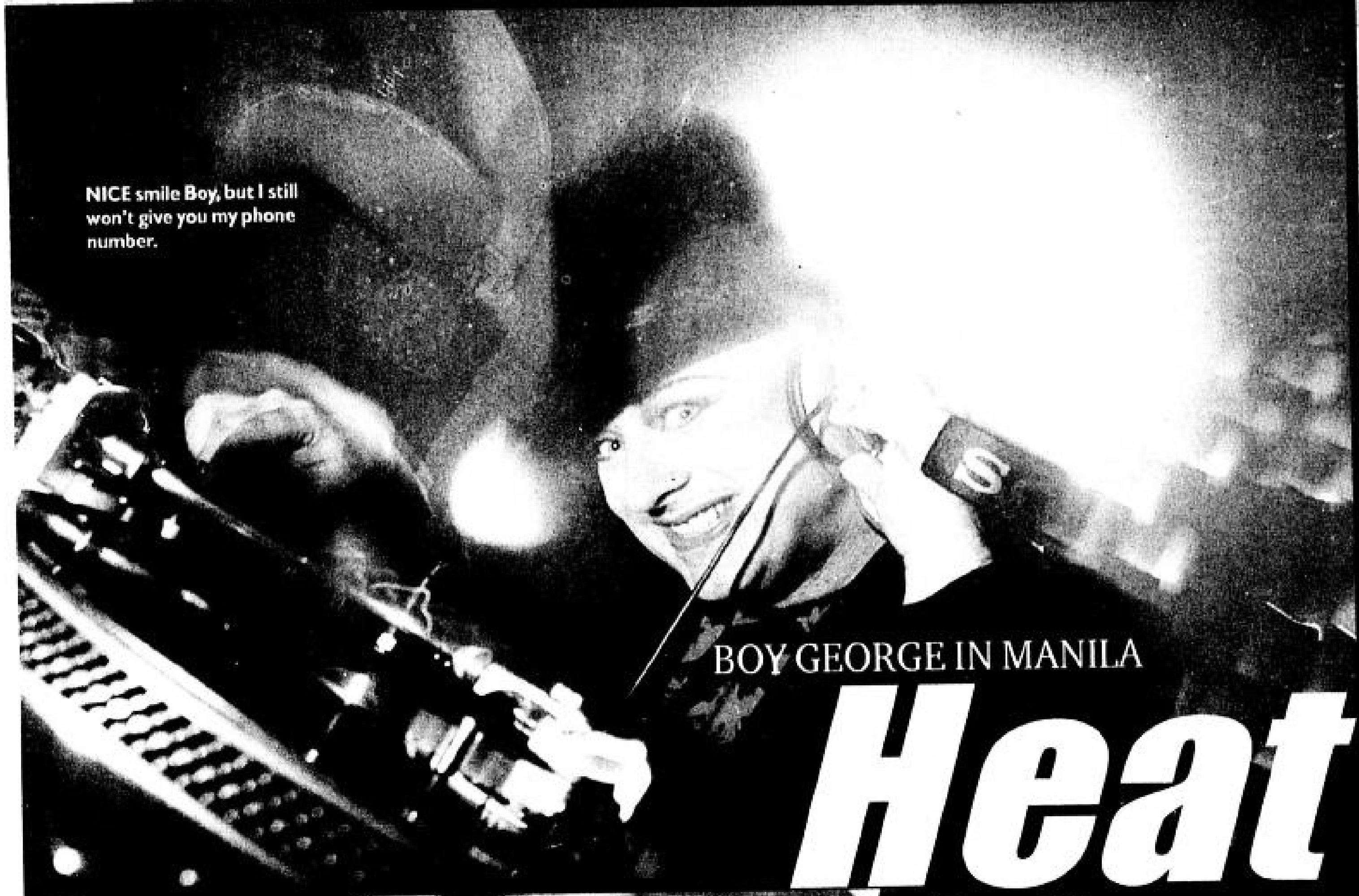
THIS poor guy was just about to be cut in half by a powerful laser when I saved him.

EVEN famous DJs need a fag now and then.

THIS cutie showed us what you can do if you are handy with your zips.

I JUST can't seem to get a bad shot of Mimi Sanson.


DANNY Henares felt a little lonely that night.


NICE smile Boy, but I still won't give you my phone number.

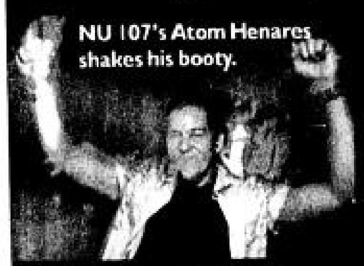
BOY GEORGE IN MANILA

Heat is the enemy of drag

BOY OH Boy did we have fun. I sneaked up on stage pretending to be somebody important and part of the crew. British DJ Mark Vedo, Tito Manapat who organized the event, Andy Davies who did the great light show and I frolicked around the stage and entertained the audience. Eventually Boy George showed up and blew my cover. Just before I was carried off the stage I overheard somebody say, "Oh, but if THAT is Boy George, who then was the guy with the blue hair?"

The bouncers who know me by now pretty well treated me leniently. Only slightly bruised I joined the crowd on the dance floor where Atom and Danny Henares, Phoemela (who looked extremely cute) and hundreds others shook their booties to Boy's 80's mixes.

Boy, or George as his crew calls him, was well worthy my replacement on stage. That guy is multi-talented. He can even teach US something about Filipino time. (He played at 3 a.m.) Although slightly eccentric he seems to be a fun guy and we got quite cozy. I had to draw a line though when he insisted on getting my phone number. After all I am a professional and I rather date girls born in the eighties than guys who were famous then.


NU 107's Atom Henares shakes his booty.

KARMA ka-DJ Spinmaster

TITO Manapat with his British buddy

DJ Mark Vedo rocked the house and kept everybody entertained till Boy arrived.

A GODDESS having a revelation

PHOEM Barranda looking soooo cute

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The after party, 10 p.m. onwards at Embassy Super Club, is brought to you by your favorite Saturday habit—a first in a slew of festivities to mark our turning two years young! Yay! Yay!

Bar none

From page G1.

order a total of 24 beers the whole night?"

To remedy this, some places charge an entrance fee, usually from P150 to P300, inclusive of one or two drinks. Thing is, say those two dreadful words—Entrance Fee—and you're likely to elicit fierce reactions from a lot of proud patrons.

I met one such specimen named Aimee one night who said, "I think charging entrance fees to get in a bar is f***ing stupid. They're being greedy. I can buy ten beers in another place."

I heard this echoed a few months back as I was entering a club, by three girls who were causing a scene at the door, claiming they never had to pay for entrance in their life. They stomped off fuming into the night, and I believe it was more of their pride than their wallet that was hurt.

To this kind of attitude, my ex-bar owner source says, "Filipino patrons hate to pay entrance fees because they feel it's an insult. What these people don't realize is that the bar is not only a hangout, it's a business. Without the entrance fee, the bar will have a harder time making enough money to stay open. Entrance fees are a good way to filter out the 'posers.' The logic here is, if they are not willing to pay for entrance, they will not spend in the bar... entrance fees work out if you have a guest list for loyal customers. Filipinos love to be on any sort of guest list as it makes them feel important."

Another problem is that regular customers sometimes forget to pay their bills, and crank out a big tab that is very hard to collect.

Evolutions

When you're up against the unpredictable, sanctimonious and stingy nature of many customers, what's a bar to do to stay afloat? One solution is to create a niche of loyal patrons.

"Building customer relationships is key to building a loyal clientele," says Circuit and Loop magazine's creative director JR Isaac, who was the PR and marketing consultant for a gamut of establishments such as Temple, Dreambar, Absinthe, Flute, Teak, Café Havana, and most of the LJC restaurants. "Having the A crowd hanging out at your place is good for press, but when they find another place, it's important that you have loyal customers who will keep coming back."

In Manila's nightlife history, some bars have enjoyed a relatively long lifespan. One such place was the unforgettable Insomnia in Malate, which opened in 1993 and ran for eight years. Owner Rem Zamora believes a melange of elements contributed to its lengthy run.

"I think we were lucky. Timing had a lot to do with it. We started out as a café, then it became a bar where we served good food. Music was also a part of it—my partner was a DJ and we had a lot of customers who shared the same interest. Friends also played a role. Though they might not be the most loyal customers, they still made the venue a meeting place." Rem adds it's important for owners to be present everyday, to provide a personal touch.

These days, you'll find him serving up that signature personal touch in his latest baby, Luce, a cozy, intimate bar lounge on Jupiter street in Makati, where now hangs the dreamy, netherworldly paintings, the vestiges of the old Insomia. Luce is steadily finding its niche among night owls who prefer a more chilled-out scene ideal for sipping drinks, and not for making *sipsip* to door bouncers of crowded clubs.

Good night

Proprietors putting up a bar, a club or a restaurant share that leap of faith in the young clientele, who become the unofficial business partners of the establishment.

Perhaps this synergy is something more people should realize: that if we want to keep coming back to a place we can call our own, we should be faithful to our roles as guests, too. For it's the collective energies and attitudes of young people that fuel a thriving nocturnal culture, which in turn makes any city a fun destination.

In the meantime, I'm slowly cozying up to a new, favorite sanctum where the bartenders already call me by name. Now there's a fresh start for a good, long night!

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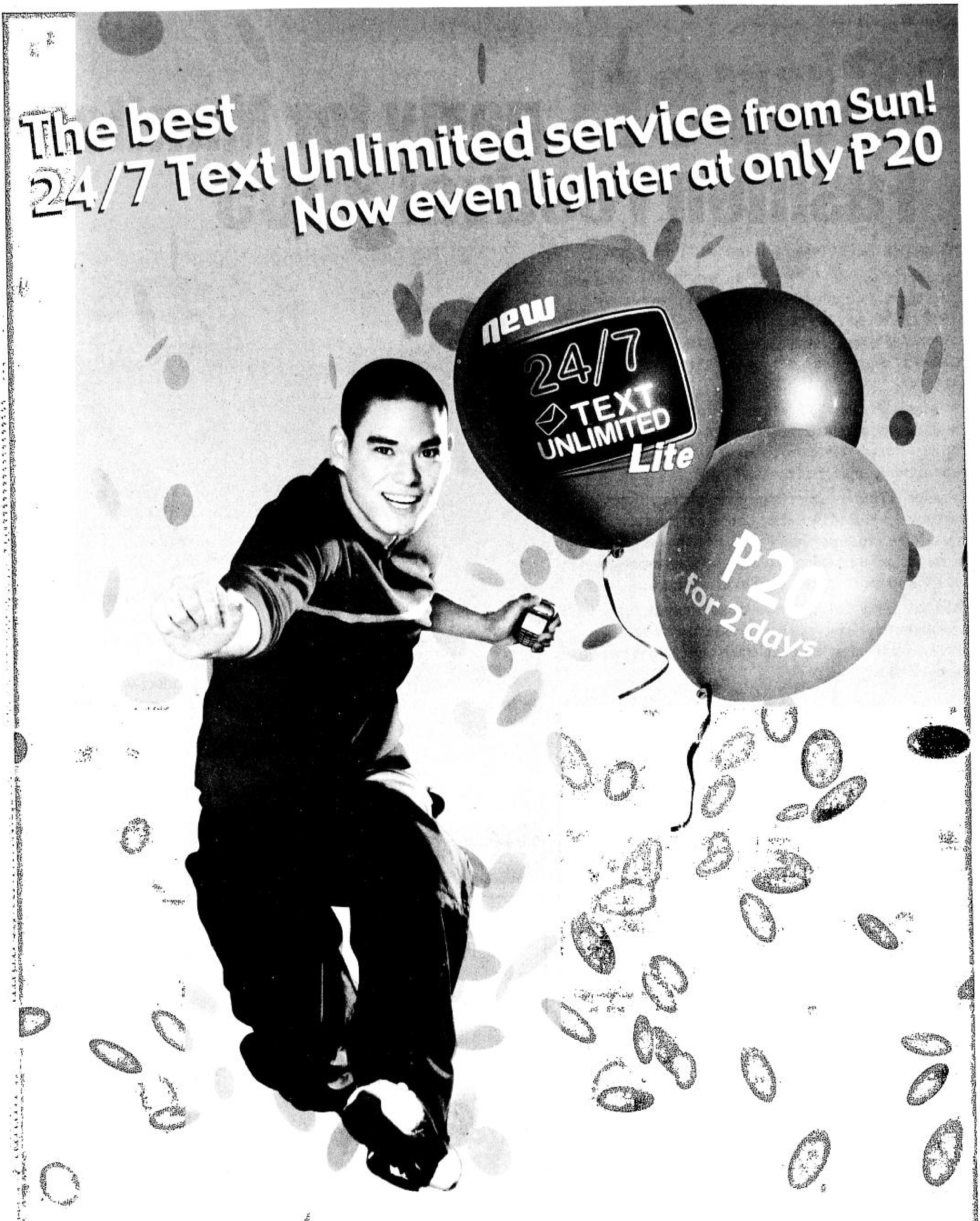

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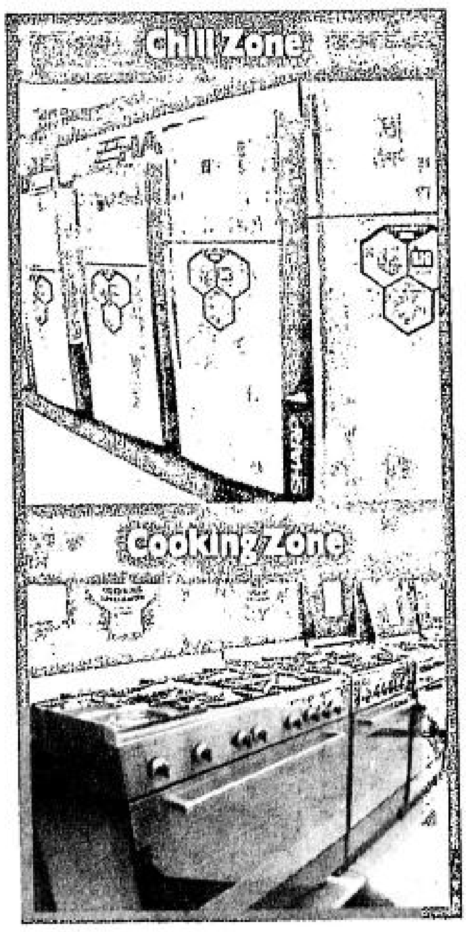
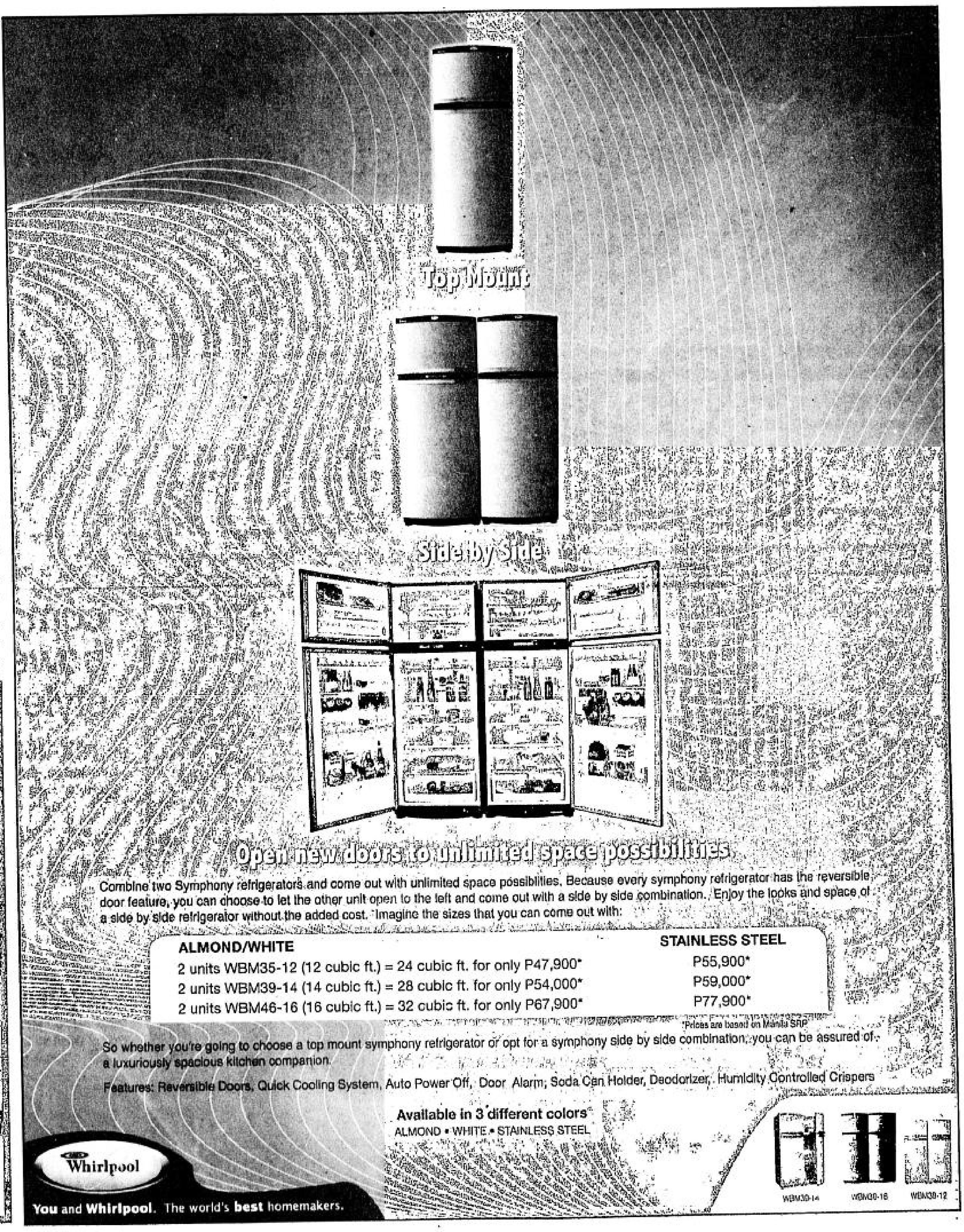
Automatic Centre, with all its other appliance exhibits in the past, decides to do away with mediocrity of similar exhibits this time.

Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre said: "To differentiate Summer

COOL/H2





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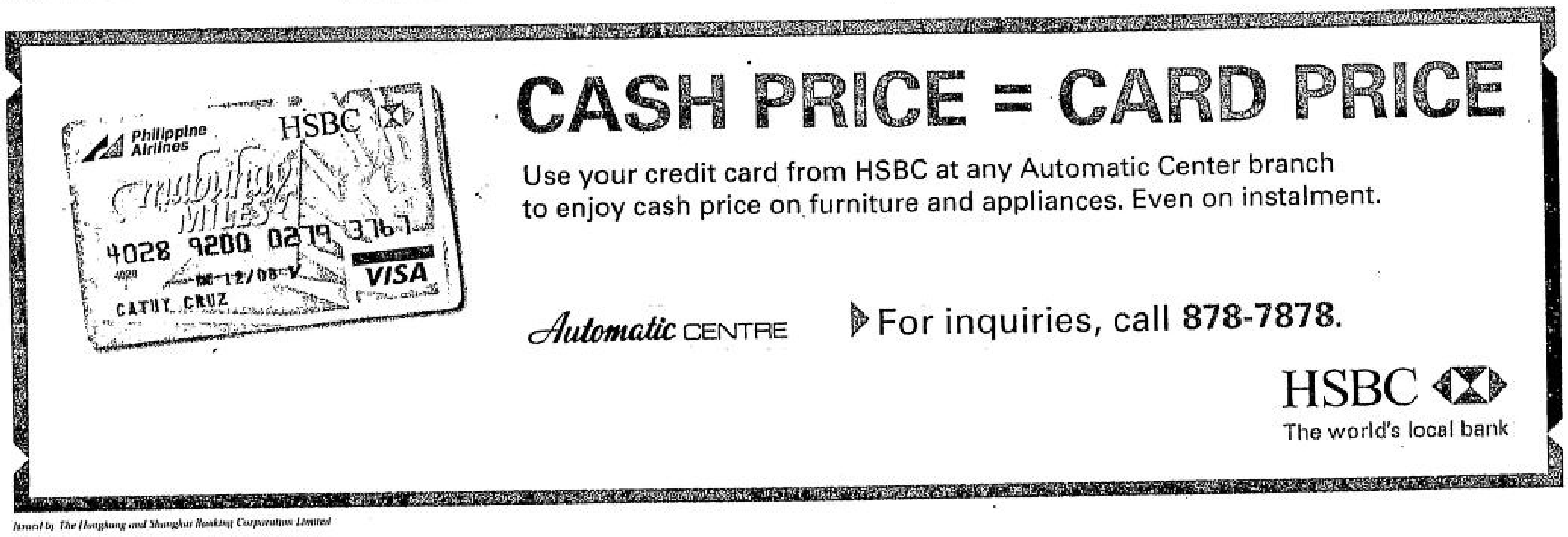

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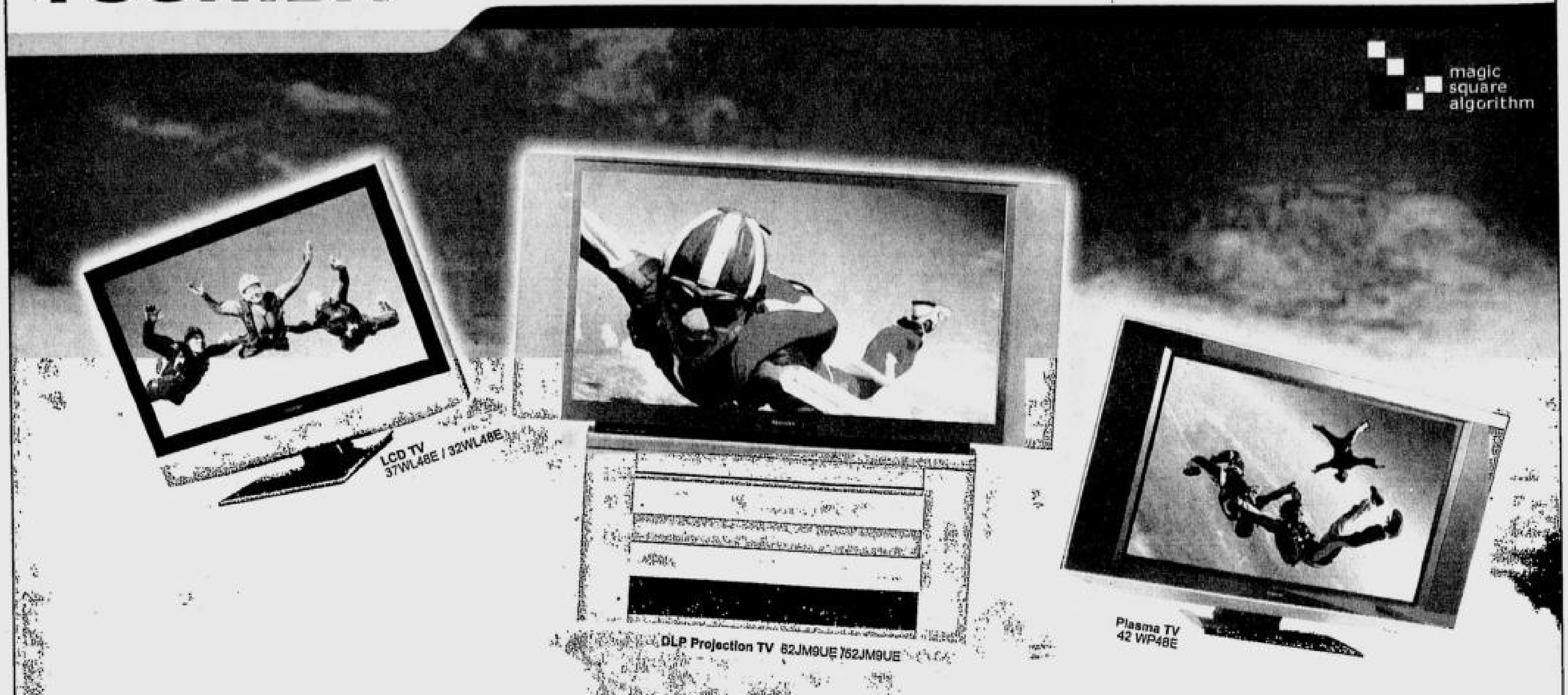

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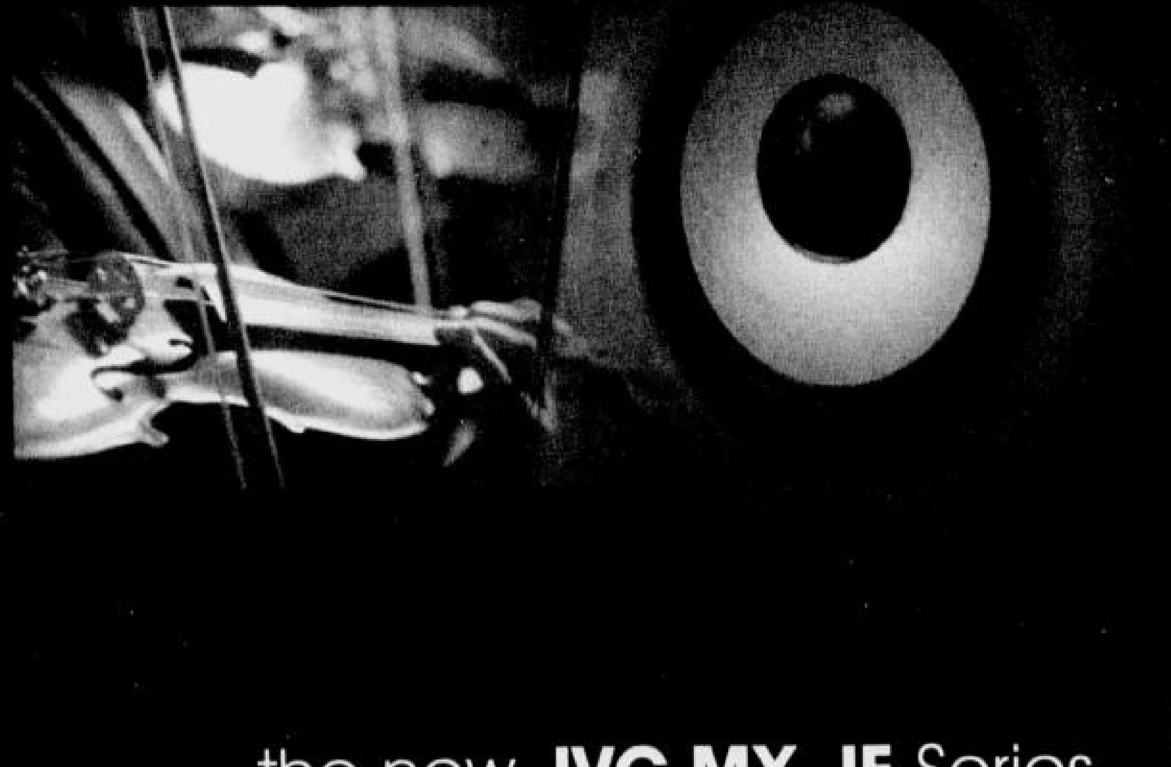

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Cool down . . .

From page H1

Pleasures from the others we try to do something which people would appreciate, and that is putting products or categories together."

This new idea is called "Zoning" to better help the customers understand and interact with the products on display. By focusing on a specific product in a Zone, potential buyers are given the opportunity to compare the specifications of each product from different brands. Each brand has something special to offer and customers can decide which of them most suits their preference. Zoning also helps consumers save time because they would only go to the zone where the appliance they want to check out or intend to buy is located.

The Pixel Zone is going to be the most visited area of Summer Pleasures. Everyone's going digital so might as well check out the latest technology has to offer. Keep those fun and memorable moments alive with the latest digital cameras and video camcorders. Customers will have a chance to try them out to compare each product brand and choose which they like best.

A miniature colorful castle is on display where you can aim the camera and shoot the photo yourself. You also get a chance to have your photo taken with the mural of Enchanted Kingdom as backdrop, and bring a digital print at home. All throughout the exhibit every 5 p.m. the Enchanted Kingdom mascot will be there so kids can enjoy and have a photo-op with the wizard.

Other popular Zones are the plasma zone where you will learn about high-definition and flat TV technologies; chill zone where you find the "iciest" cooling appliances; digital music zone where you will find your much-wanted MP3 or digital music player; and mobile zone where you will find portable DVD players that are perfect for long travels.

"We want to demonstrate a different kind of lifestyle with this exhibit," said Samie Lim, president of Automatic Centre, "And give greater quality of life for Filipino families"

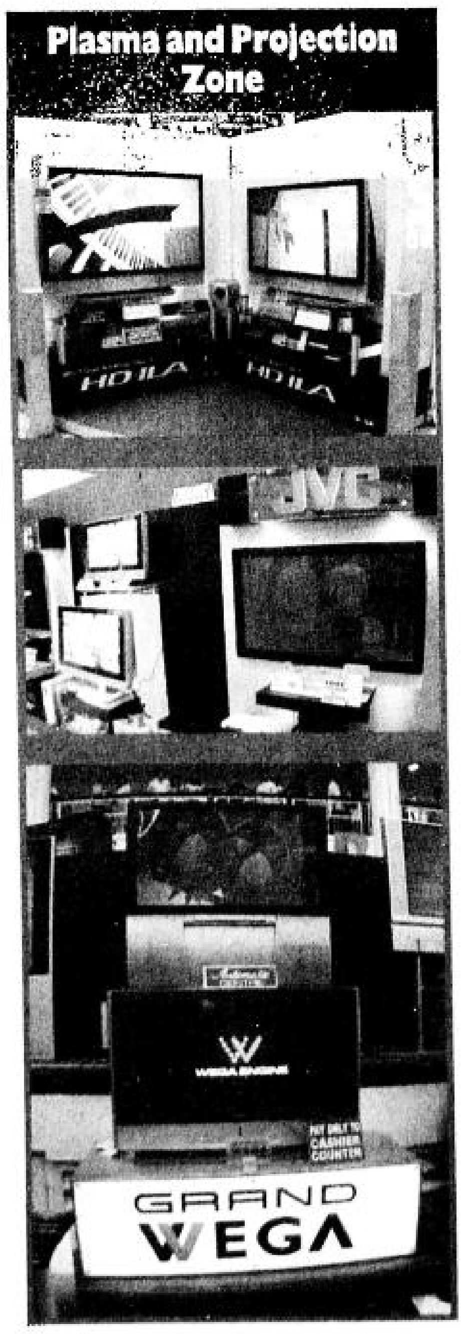
In partnership with BPI credit cards, Summer Pleasures will offer a 0-percent interest for up to 24 months on appliances and electronics from participating brands: Sony, JVC, Panasonic, Pioneer, Sharp, Toshiba, Philips, LG, Samsung, Hitachi, Kolin-Syntax, Changhong, Hyundai, Carrier, Condura, Kelvinator, Electrolux, White Westinghouse, Frigidaire, Whirlpool, Haier, Markes, La Germania, Elba, Canon, Casio, Kodak, Konica-Minolta, Nikon, Pentax, Olympus, Creative, i-Pod, i-River, mpio, Audiovox, Next Base, and Magic Sing.

"The continued partnership with Automatic Centre reinforces our relationship with them," said Ginbee Go, BPI vice president for credit

COOL/ H4

'We want to demonstrate a different kind of lifestyle with this exhibit,' said Samie Lim, president of Automatic Centre, 'And give greater quality of life for Filipino families'

Plasma and Projection Zone



PIXEL Zone

MIA Chua poses with EK Wizard and maiden for a free digital print-out

Automatic CENTRE
Summer Pleasures
SUPER SUMMER APPLIANCE EXHIBIT

Glorietta Activity Center,
now thru May 20

SHARP
www.sharp.ph

Flat and clear.

Pure-Flat Color Picture Tube.
Get better, clearer picture quality from all angles with X-Flat TV's 34" pure-flat color picture tube.

Digital 100Hz Scan and Progressive Scan Technology.
The X-Flat TV makes the scan lines in each image less visible, gets rid of annoying image distortions like "flickers" and "feathering", and delivers crisper digital-clear picture quality.

Twin Picture-in-Picture.
Stay tuned to more than one TV program, so you'll never miss your favorite shows!

Powerful and versatile.

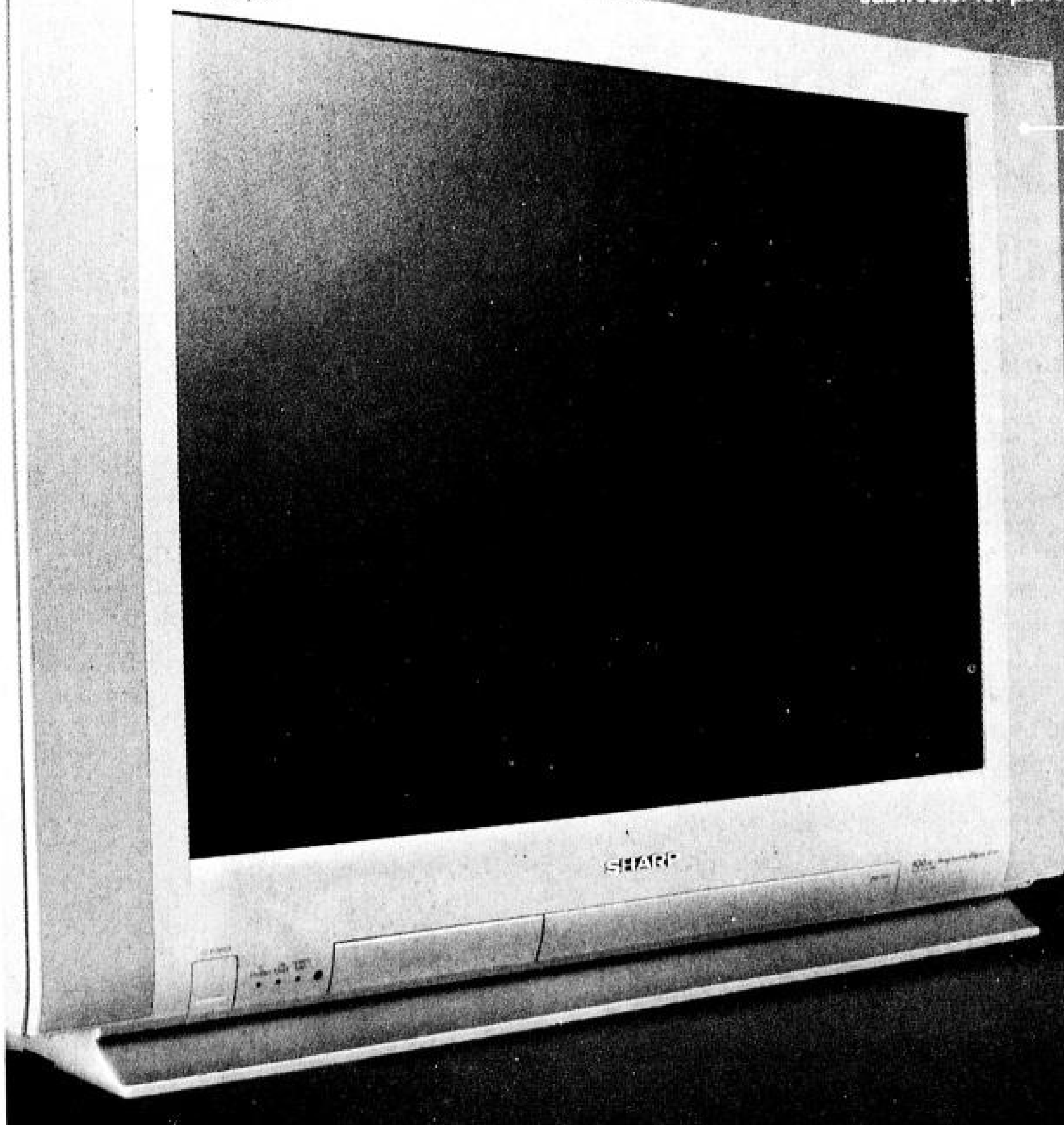
Built-in 5 Speaker System with Subwoofer Box.
Unlike conventional TVs, the X-Flat TV comes with a high-power 20W (RMS) Theatre Surround System built-in, so you get dynamic, clear and powerful sound all the time.

World Multi-System Feature.
Thanks to the X-Flat TV's compatibility with both NTSC and PAL / SECAM systems, you get to enjoy more entertainment flexibility.

Multiple input-output ports.
Experience the pleasure of full connectivity with X-Flat TV. It comes with 1 front AV-input, 2 rear AV-inputs, 1 front / rear S-video input, 1 AV-output, Component-in and Headphone Terminals.

The Sharp 34" X-Flat TV
Vivid picture, powerful sound.

The new X-Flat TV has powerful Digital Progressive Scan technology that gets rid of jagged diagonal lines and delivers sharper, clearer picture quality. Plus, each X-Flat TV is equipped with a built-in 5 Speaker System with subwoofer for powerful, stereo-surround sound.



34H-F200 X-FLAT TV

Also available:

Black Panel Flat TV
Side Speakers
29"/ 25"/ 21"
[illegible]

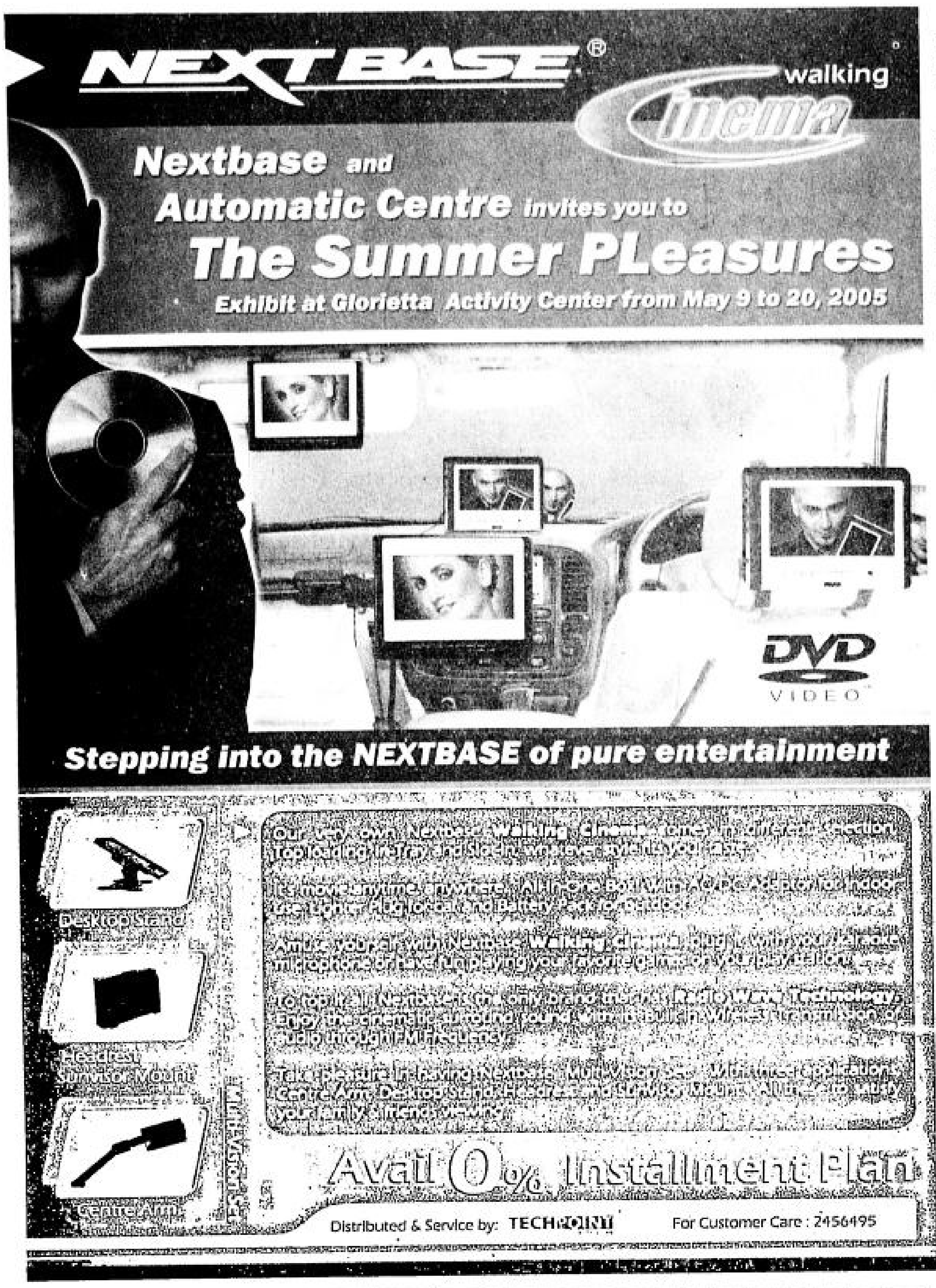
White Panel Flat TV
Side Speakers
29"/ 25"/ 21"
[illegible]

Silver Flat TV
Side Speakers 29"
[illegible]

Silver Flat TV
Bottom Speakers 21"
[illegible]

Two Tone Flat TV
Bottom Speakers 21"
[illegible]

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.



Nextbase and Automatic Centre invites you to

The Summer PLeasures

Exhibit at Glorietta Activity Center from May 9 to 20, 2005

Stepping into the NEXTBASE of pure entertainment

Our very own Nextbase Walking Cinema comes in different selection. Top loading, In-Tray and Slide-in, whatever style fits your taste.

It's movie anytime, anywhere. All-in-one Box with AC/DC Adaptor for indoor use, Lighter Plug for car and Battery Pack for outdoor.

Amuse yourself with Nextbase Walking Cinema. Plug in with your karaoke microphone or have fun playing your favorite games on your playstation.

To top it all, Nextbase is the only brand [illegible] Radio Wave Technology. Enjoy the cinematic surround sound with its Built-in Wireless transmission of audio through FM Frequency.

Take pleasure in having Nextbase Multi Vision Set. With three applications: Centre Arm, Desktop Stand, Headrest and Sunvisor Mount. All these to satisfy your family & friends viewing.

Avail 0% Installment Plan

Distributed & Service by: TECHPOINT For Customer Care : 2456495

Cool down . . .

From page H3

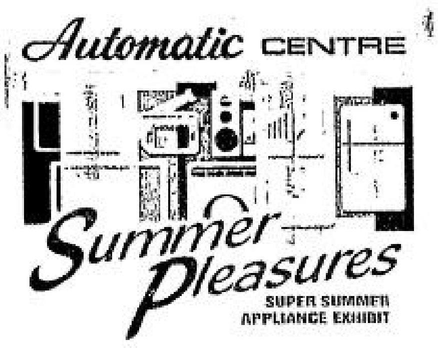
cards. "It also tells the consumers and our cardholders that installment financing of the credit card industry is going strong."

Go added that BPI offers real 0% percent with no hidden charges.

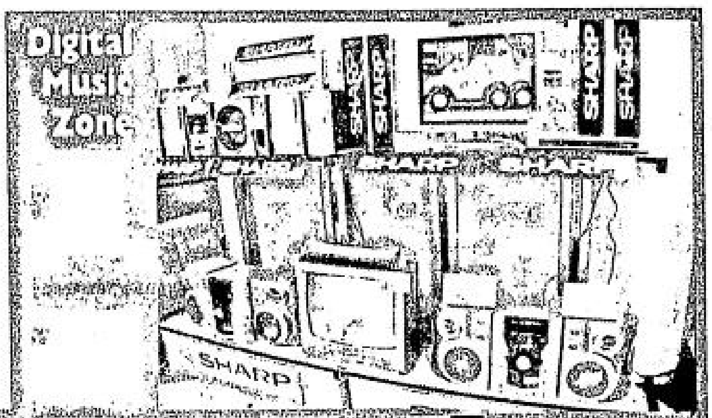
"We don't charge cardholders what they don't know," Go said.

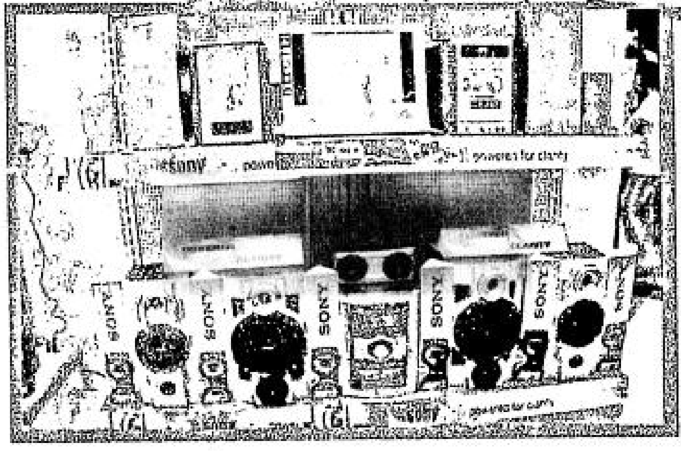
Lots of gift items and freebies will also be given away including a free microwave or 14-inch TV for a purchase of plasma TV with any BPI credit card or a chance to pick a prize for a minimum P3,000 purchase.

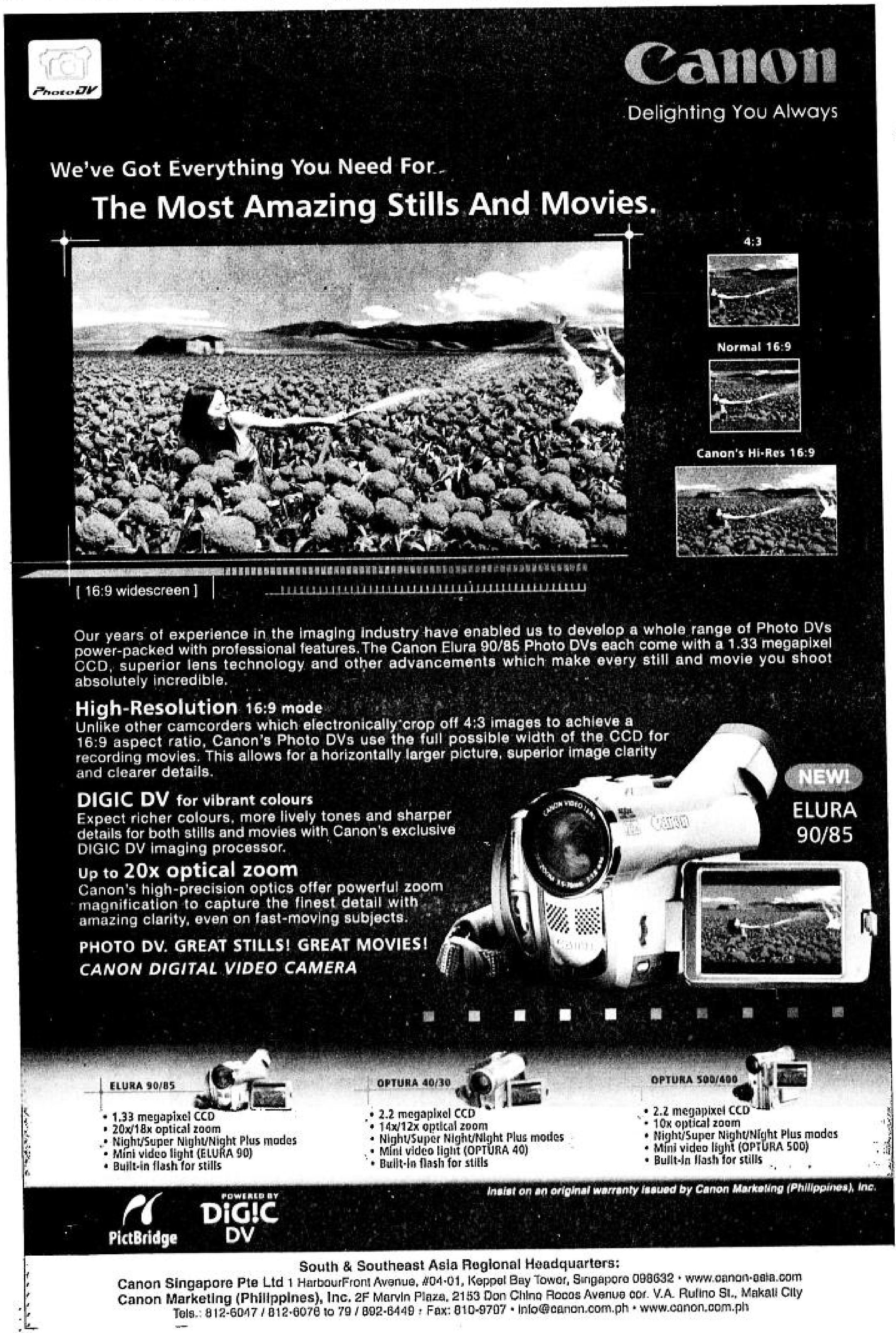
Cool down now with the hottest offerings at Automatic Centre's Summer Pleasures Super Appliance Exhibit at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati until May 20.



Glorietta Activity Center, now thru May 20







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Delighting You Always

We've Got Everything You Need For..
The Most Amazing Stills And Movies.

Our years of experience in the imaging industry have enabled us to develop a whole range of Photo DVs power-packed with professional features. The Canon Elura 90/85 Photo DVs each come with a 1.33 megapixel CCD, superior lens technology and other advancements which make every still and movie you shoot absolutely incredible.

High-Resolution 16:9 mode
Unlike other camcorders which electronically crop off 4:3 images to achieve a 16:9 aspect ratio, Canon's Photo DVs use the full possible width of the CCD for recording movies. This allows for a horizontally larger picture, superior image clarity and clearer details.

DIGIC DV for vibrant colours
Expect richer colours, more lively tones and sharper details for both stills and movies with Canon's exclusive DIGIC DV imaging processor.

Up to 20x optical zoom
Canon's high-precision optics offer powerful zoom magnification to capture the finest detail with amazing clarity, even on fast-moving subjects.

PHOTO DV. GREAT STILLS! GREAT MOVIES!
CANON DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA

ELURA 90/85
- 1.33 megapixel CCD
- 20x/18x optical zoom
- Night/Super Night/Night Plus modes
- Mini video light (ELURA 90)
- Built-in flash for stills

OPTURA 40/30
- 2.2 megapixel CCD
- 14x/12x optical zoom
- Night/Super Night/Night Plus modes
- Mini video light (OPTURA 40)
- Built-in flash for stills

OPTURA 500/400
- 2.2 megapixel CCD
- 10x optical zoom
- Night/Super Night/Night Plus modes
- Mini video light (OPTURA 500)
- Built-in flash for stills

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

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NEW ELURA 90/ELURA 85 PHOTO DV FROM CANON

Superb Movies and True-To-Life Stills

SINGAPORE, 5 January 2005 - Canon's Photo DV range has just been taken to the next level with today's introduction of the new Elura 90/Elura 85 featuring compact styling and megapixel performance. The Photo DV branding on the Elura 90/Elura 85 represents Canon's assurance of professional-quality movies and photo-perfect stills from a single device. By incorporating a 1.33-megapixel CCD, a DIGIC DV imaging processor, and a host of innovative features, the Elura 90/Elura 85 amply delivers on the Photo DV promise and more.

The Elura 90/Elura 85 features a powerful 20x and 18x optical zoom lens respectively. Both the Elura 90 and Elura 85 have been designed with Canon's new Stream Surface philosophy, which presents a highly fluid form factor with continuous, flowing lines from viewfinder to lens. Together with the use of high-quality materials and finishing, the stylish design and compact body sets the Elura 90/Elura 85 apart from the rest of the market - perfect for users seeking more features without compromising on size.

The photo-perfect quality of stills and additional camera functions like a built-in flash, allows the Elura 90/Elura 85 to satisfactorily double up as a camera. Combining superb functionality with ease-of-operation, the Elura 90/Elura 85 will appeal to everyone especially families, frequent travellers, and users upgrading for better image quality and features.

DIGIC DV Imaging Processor

The challenge with taking great movies and stills with a single device has always been overcoming the vastly different processing needs of video footage and digital photos. This is where the DIGIC DV imaging processor comes into the picture. Exclusively designed by Canon for use in its camcorder, DIGIC DV is the culmination of Canon's nearly 70 years of optical imaging expertise. Effectively two processors in one, DIGIC DV uses two separate paths to optimally process video and stills. When combined with a 1.33-megapixel CCD sensor, the Elura 90/Elura 85 are able to produce richer colours, more vibrant tones and sharply focused details in both, movies and stills.

High-Resolution Widescreen 16:9 Mode

Shooting in widescreen 16:9 format conveys a more professional look and feel as literally, more pixels are used for recording footage. The Elura 90/Elura 85 records 16:9 widescreen video by recording to entire width of the CCD sensor. This is known as high-resolution imaging, which allows for a horizontally larger picture and superior image clarity and greater visibility of fine details. The Elura 90/Elura 85 allows aspiring directors to express their creative impulses, while owners of wide-TVs will appreciate seeing their video footage display properly. The LCD viewfinder in the Elura 90/Elura 85 displays widescreen footage exactly the same way it is captured, taking the guesswork out of composing great frames.

Powerful, High Magnification Canon Optics

Designed to offer powerful zoom magnification without compromising on compactness, the Elura 90/Elura 85 uses the supreme Canon optical lens system. While both models use a F1.8 Canon video lens with a 34mm filter diameter, the Elura 90 has an optical zoom of 20x, while the Elura 85 has an optical zoom of 18x. With such high magnification power, users can zoom into the action, even if it's taking place at the far end of the field. No more worries about grabbing front row seats at your child's sports day at school or piano recital in a crowded hall.

The use of a large aperture, aspherical lens - enables the capture of every tiny detail, on even fast moving subjects, with startling clarity. Lenses are specially coated to reduce flare and ghosting, thus assuring perfectly clear video footage under difficult lighting conditions. For added versatility, the Elura 90 comes supplied with a 0.7x wide attachment for extra wide-angle shooting to capture large subjects and panoramic vistas in their entirety.

Point-and-Shoot Simplicity

The Elura 90/Elura 85 redefines point-and-shoot simplicity. Used in the Easy mode, they tap on its built-in intelligence to produce professional-quality video under every kind of external conditions. Alternatively, exercise your creativity with the Program mode for full manual control. A mode selector switch and other function buttons are conveniently located for easy one-handed operation. Select Night Modes with one-button operation for low-level light shooting. Night Plus and Super Night Mode allow shooting in complete darkness with illumination from the on-board LED light. However, when used in a sunlit area, the backlighted 2.5" LCD panel with AR (Anti-Reflective) coating allows easy viewing.

Camera Functions

Users will never miss another great photo opportunity, as the Elura 90/Elura 85 snaps photos even while recording movie footage. It is equipped with numerous camera functions including a built-in flash, while a Drive Mode button activates continuous shooting of still images up to 5 frames/sec or 3 frames/sec in SXGA size. Three AF frames enables creative picture composition options like snapping off-centre subjects. Other camera functions include Auto Exposure Bracketing, Simultaneous Photo Recording and Progressive-Scan Photo system.

Streamlined Design And Compact Styling

The high-precision Canon optics developed for the Elura 90/Elura 85 features high-specification performance while requiring significantly less space. With savings on space and cost, the camcorder body has been streamlined with a highly fluid design and remarkably compact proportions. This makes the Elura 90/Elura 85 a perfect travelling companion.

Connectivity

The Elura 90/Elura 85 is PictBridge compatible, allowing users to print photos by connecting directly to a printer without having to boot up a computer. The Exif Print compatibility allows the camcorders to deliver printouts accurately to the printer with even higher colour fidelity. The supplied DV Messenger 2.0 software expands the capabilities of the Elura 90/Elura 85 to the Internet. Use the Elura 90/Elura 85 as a webcam and control the camera over the Internet from a remote location. Connect the Elura 90/Elura 85 to a PC via the DV Terminal, which enables high-quality digital dubbing without any loss of image resolution. Easy transfer of still images to the PC is done via the USB connection.